

Mr Sadat expecting Israel to make extensive withdrawal

Optimism that Israel will make concessions during the Christmas Day meeting in Cairo between President Sadat and Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was being expressed in the Egyptian capital yesterday. Mr Sadat said he

expected Israel to make extensive withdrawals from the territories occupied after the 1967 war. Senior Egyptian officials said the Israelis would be bringing to Cairo a peace plan significantly more flexible than the proposals already outlined in public.

Begin visit may be prolonged

By Our Correspondent

airo, Dec 23

Egyptian officials are optimistic that the historic talks at Ismailia on Christmas Day between President Sadat and Mr

gin, the Israeli Prime

Minister, will achieve a break-

through for a comprehensive

Arab-Egyptian settlement.

Disagreements still existed

between the Egyptian and

Israeli sides, officials at the

preparatory peace conference said, but it was hoped that

the Ismailia summit would

close the gap.

The differences are believed

to relate to Israel's withdrawal

from the territories it occupied

in the 1967 Middle East war,

border demarcations, security

and the Palestine issue.

Egypt wants a complete

self-pullout from all

occupied territories and a

Jordanian state on the Gaza

and on the West Bank

the Jordan river seized by

Israel in 1967. Israel is

willing to meet these

mandates, particularly that concerning the West Bank.

Egyptian optimism over the

day-Begin talks was also re-

acted by the semi-official press

Cairo with the influential

Gomhouria saying that

they expected Israel to make

concessions. A change in the

Arab position was expected.

Inform sources in Ismailia said

Mr Begin, who is due to

return to Israel after his talks

with Mr Sadat on Sunday, was

likely to extend his stay until

Monday. The two leaders were

also likely to hold a second

round of talks after their joint

press conference on Sunday

evening.

Officials at Ismailia were

day during the final touch-

ups to the arrangements for Mr

Begin's historic meetings with

President Sadat, the second

since the Egyptian leader's visit

to Jerusalem last month.

Mr Begin and his wife are

expected to land at Abu Swair,

an air base west of Ismailia,

around 0900 GMT on Sunday.

The Israeli Prime Minister will

be greeted by his Egyptian

counterpart, Mr Mamoud

Salem. General Muhammad

Abdul-Ghani, the War Minister,

Mr Butros Ghali, acting Foreign

Minister, and other senior

officials.

After landing at Abu Swair,

Mr Begin and Mr Salem will go

by helicopter to President

Sadat's Nafir rest house in

Ismailia where the talks will

be held.

The Egyptian delegation will

include Vice-President Hosni

Mubarak, Mr Salem, General

Gamali, Dr Ghali and Dr

Esmat Abdul Maguid, the head

of the delegation at the Cairo

peace talks.

With Mr Begin will be Mr

Vigil Yadin, Deputy Prime

Minister, Mr Moshe Dayan,

Foreign Minister, Mr Ezer

Weizman, Defence Minister,

Mr Efraim Sharom, Agricul-

ture Minister, Mr Elihu

Elisar, chief Israeli dele-

gate at the Cairo talks.

On th of his talks with

Mr Begin, President Sadat will

preside over an emergency

meeting of the National

Security Council, the highest

policy-making body.

Ismailia, Dec 23.—President

Sadat said today he expects

"For sure, the land occupied

after 1967, and this is not a

concession from the Israeli side

at all", he told journalists. "It

is our land".

High Egyptian officials said

Mr Begin is bringing a peace

plan significantly more flexible

than proposals he has outlined

in public. These call only for

self-rule on the West Bank and

Gaza, where Mr Sadat demands

that a sovereign Palestinian

state be set up.

Asked if the summit might

fail Mr Sadat replied: "Maybe.

Why not? Maybe because we

shall be very candid, and we

shall be putting everything on

the table, at least from my

side".—AP

Our Berlin Correspondent

writes: Egypt can expect an

increase in capital aid when

Herr Schmidt, the West German

Chancellor goes to Cairo

next Tuesday. The official

Bonn spokesman did not deny

that the annual rate of

DM250m (560m) will go up by

DM50 to DM70m.

Begin victory, photograph,

page 4

Leading article, page 13

Continued on page 15, col 6

register spare parts to a British firm.

The official said that Distillers' decision to withdraw Johnnie Walker Red Label and Dimple from the British market is being examined by the European Commission for breach of the EEC's fair trade rules. Distillers' action was itself a response to the Commission's banning earlier this week of certain of the company's trading practices.

A senior Commission official said that withholding the brands or any other brand from the market could be considered to be "a refusal of sale" and thus liable to prosecution under Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome.

Among other things, Article 86 forbids companies to exploit a dominant position "to limit

marked to the prejudice of

competitors. As recently as last

week the Commission fined a

Swedish company £21,000 for

prohibiting the sale of cash

Continued on page 15, col 6

HOME NEWS

Mr Mason agrees to independent inquiry into Ulster housing after allegations

Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has agreed to an independent examination of allegations that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has mishandled some building contracts. His decision comes after a request for an inquiry from Mr James O'Hara, the executive's chairman.

Mr Mason said he shared Mr O'Hara's concern about public confidence in the administration of housing. He added: "I will want to consider carefully the form in which such examination might take and I will be in touch with you again when I have reached a decision."

In a letter to Mr Mason, Mr O'Hara said that various allegations had been made from time to time about improprieties in the handling of Housing Executive contracts. He added:

"Some of these allegations have, indeed, been the subject of police investigation, but it seems that this has not alighted

public disquiet."

Suggestions that something of public concern was being hidden were undermining public confidence in the executive and self-confidence within the organization, Mr O'Hara said. He was convinced that any objective examination would show that the overwhelming majority of the executive's staff have at all

times tried to do their duty to the best of their ability, sometimes in very trying circumstances."

He asked Mr Mason to institute a sworn public inquiry under an independent, legally qualified person of standing into the contractual procedures and contract administration of the executive.

Earlier this year Mrs Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham Edgbaston, alleged that there had been a massive cover-up after an investigation into allegations of a building swindle. She said that the IRA had benefited by £1m of taxpayers' money in seven months.

In some cases, she alleged, the builders were associated with terrorist organizations, and there was no proper control. She said she had obtained a copy of a report by two police officers into allegations that money from the executive had reached the IRA.

Plea on terrorists: Mr Ian Sproat, Conservative MP for Aberdeen South, made an

"eleventh-hour appeal" yesterday to Mr Mason not to include any known IRA terrorists among those prisoners who might be granted five days' home leave in the province this Christmas. He said his information was that 35 members of the IRA were among prisoners eligible for the leave.

"To release terrorists for Christmas would be disgusting and an insult to British soldiers and the families of those killed by the IRA," he added.

Mr Sproat said: "What makes it much worse is that their wives could then claim a minimum of £9 social security for them, and more if they can persuade officials to give it to them for the turkey. I sincerely hope Mr Mason will ensure that no such thing happens."

Provisionally "isolated": The Provisional IRA, who have announced that there will be no Christmas ceasefire this year, continue to be "suppressed, contained and isolated from the mass of the people". Lieutenant-General Timothy Creasey, who took command of troops in Northern Ireland last month, said yesterday: "He gave a warning, however, that the job of the security forces would become harder and less spectacular."

In his Christmas message to the troops he said: "The

Carols start Christmas for world millions

Continued from page 1

making a new record and a videogram for EMI.

It represents a full schedule for the 16 boy choristers from King's College School, and the 14 undergraduates who make up the choir. They all have to fit in work at school and college with three hours' services and practice every day.

According to Mr Philip Ledger, the director of music, it is the yearly turnover of choir members that gives the King's music freshness, bite and enthusiasm.

With the BBC singers there would not be much difference between the second and fourth take of an item", he says. "The King's choir gets it just right on the second take, and after that it goes off."

An even more distinctive quality comes from the chapel's acoustic, which magnifies and attenuates every sound, including mistakes.

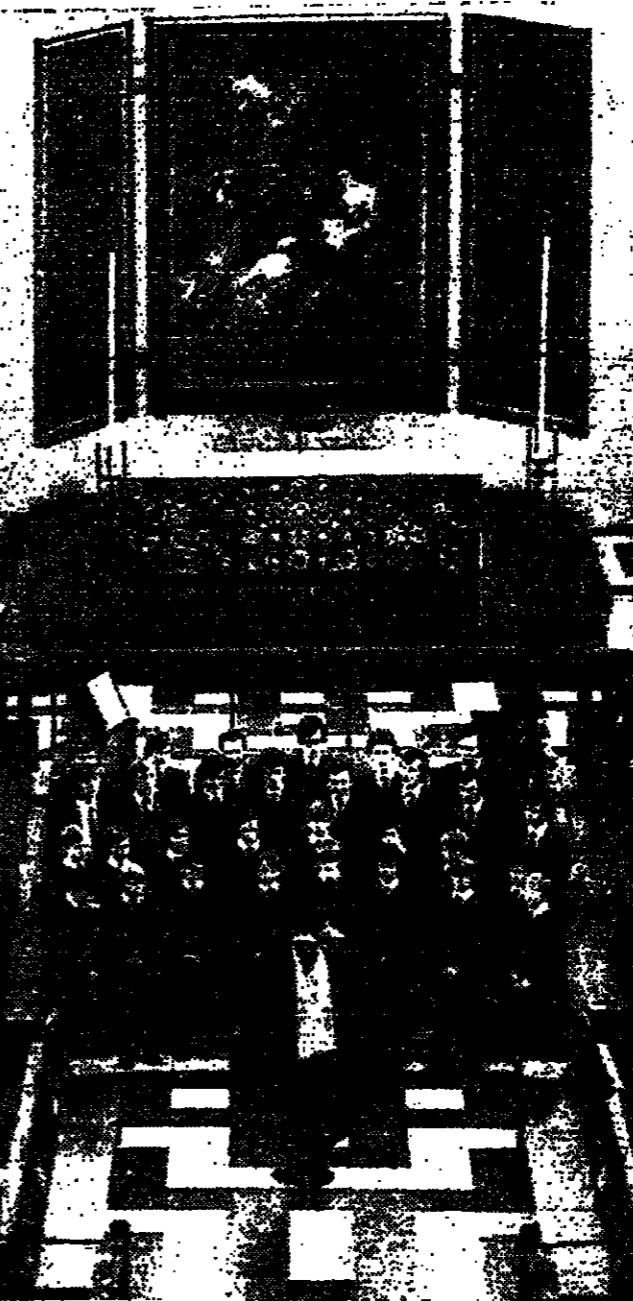
"Treble forte does not sound very nice", Mr Ledger says. "On the other hand, it sounds absolutely marvellous if you sing really softly." Strangely enough, despite the immediate rush for seats in the choir when the doors are opened, the mysteries of the acoustic mean that the best listening point lies at the chapel's opposite western end where the proceedings are almost out of sight.

Even stranger is the custom dictating that the cross-bearer at the head of the choir's procession should be the president of the college boat club. No one appears to know why.

Perhaps the most unusual custom of all centres on the famous and much-prized opening solo. The boy singer selected for this duty a minute or two before the service begins: a useful antidote to nervousness and possible disappointment.

One recurring nightmare besets all King's choirmasters. The 10 or 11-year-old whose unaccompanied voice starts the service has to find the key of G major. If he misses it by a semitone, and the choir, joining in for the second verse, fails to make the adjustment, the impact of the organ, already set in key, in the third verse will be disastrous. So far that has not happened.

The service over, the choir can afford to let its hair down a little. The men join the fellows for dinner in the college hall, followed by a clearing away of the tables for a session



King's College Chapel choir rehearsing for today's carol service.

of ballooning, a King's-inspired game with its roots apparently

venerable sales stalls, however, do not meet more than three fifth

of the full costs of running the chapel.

Then black coffee pursues the

port in preparation for the

midnight Mass, after which the

older section of the choir

usually retire to the senior

choral scholars' room to listen

to their own voices on a World

Service repeat. They finally

leave for home after Evensong on Christmas Day.

Since the choral scholars can

not boost their income with

vacation jobs, the session fees

paid to them for recordings and

broadcasts are seen as merited

pocket money. The college

itself takes the royalties and

charges the BBC a nominal £100 fee.

Even the combined revenue of

royalties, offertory and sou-

venir sales stalls, however, do

not meet more than three fifth

of the full costs of running the

chapel.

The King's carol service

undoubtedly possesses a well-

known ecclesiastical appeal, despite

its choral image. Mr Til

is constantly amazed by the

impact it makes on people of

different faiths or no faith at

all.

Sir David, who was at the

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Dismissal notices to journalists withdrawn

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The Manchester Evening News yesterday withdrew dismissal notices issued to the entire editorial staff of Wednesday. Normal working will be resumed today.

There were four hours of talks on Thursday between the management and the National Union of Journalists and details of a peace formula were finalized in six hours of talks yesterday.

The 107 journalists began working to contract size days ago because of delay in paying an agreed rise backdated to April. Since the dismissals the paper has been produced by the editor, Mr Douglas Emmett, and three assistants.

Mr Ian McWilliam-Fowler, father of the N.U.J. chapel (branch chairman), said last night that the management would have been better advised not to produce a paper in such circumstances, because the quality had suffered.

The journalists had planned to take to the management to court to make an application for an injunction after the issue of dismissal notices. Under the agreement they will not lose pay or benefits.

Mr McWilliam-Fowler said later that the formula provided for the settlement increase to be made available now.

Union moves for fund to aid fined postmen

The seven postal workers who were fined a total of £1,400 by their union for organizing a mail boycott of the Grunwick works in north London may not have to pay the money themselves.

Moves were under way within the trade union movement yesterday to set up an appeal fund to help to pay the fines, which were imposed on Thursday by the Post Office Workers' Union.

Mr Jack Dromey, secretary of Brent Trades Council, in north London, said he had had talks with union officials and regional committees in London in an attempt to set up a fund.

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Leader of self-employed group resigns in clash

By a Staff Reporter

Disputes within the National Federation of the Self-employed have come out into the open again with the resignation of Mr Owen Dyer, a vice-president. Mr Lex Reid, another vice-president, has also left it to be known that he intends to resign, as he is chairman of a splinter group formed in Scotland.

Mr Dyer, an insurance

broker in Dorset, said yesterday that he had been "unhappy over the direction in which the federation is going". He blamed

nationalism and said that "power politics are creeping in".

"I do not want to be a party

to something I don't believe in", he said. "I came to the

feeling that the self-employed

do not really want to unite.

They are just seeking glory for

OVERSEAS

Polisario hostages return to emotional welcome in Paris

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Dec 23.—The eight French hostages handed over in Algiers by the Polisario Front Saharan guerrillas to Dr Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, arrived with him at Orly airport this evening in a chartered Swiss aircraft.

M. Louis de Guirmois, the Foreign Minister, was on hand at the airport to welcome the hostages and to express officially to Dr Waldheim the French Government's gratitude for the part he played in the negotiations for their release.

The homecoming ceremony took place in the VIP lounge at the airport. As well as the hostages' relatives, the Minister of the Interior, the vice-president of the French Red Cross, a representative of the League for the Rights of Man, and one from the Mauritanian mining company which employed the hostages, were also on hand.

The press was allowed to watch the emotional reunion scenes from a balcony, but could not mingle with the hostages or interview them. This was to avoid both an unseemly "fare for all" and the airing of what

hostages, some of whom appear to have been brainwashed during their long detention, of Polisario-inspired propaganda against the French government.

The press exclusion has provoked protest from a wing

of journalists' unions against so-called "muzzling of the press" and against the Government's attempts to prevent the press reporting on French soil the opinions they expressed at Tindouf (in Algeria) which were in complete contradiction with the official Government line.

The eight hostages appeared to be in good health. They had laid aside their army fatigues for new suits, shirts, and ties, while Mme Nicole Foulon, the only woman among them, was wearing a very smart suit.

In his speech of welcome, M. de Guirmois assured them that the whole French people had shared in their trials and rejoiced in their liberation. He did not doubt now that they were free, they would appreciate the full extent of the efforts of the French Government to have them released, as well as those of many foreign statesmen.

Institute plea for S Africa to free 18 journalists

The International Press Institute has urged Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, to release 18 South African journalists in detention and to give assurances that Pretoria "will cease harassment of journalists and the press."

Mr Peter Galliner, director of the London-based institute, which represents more than 1,800 editors throughout the world, has sent the appeal to Mr Vorster and Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Justice.

In his message, the text of which was released yesterday, Mr Galliner asked the South African Government to release Mr Anthony Holiday as soon as possible and to ensure that he receives proper medical attention.

It brings to the Prime Minister's attention the case of Mrs Judy Mayet, a widow and a mother of seven children who is solely responsible for the financial support of her family.

His message states: "The International Press Institute is still very concerned about the detention and banning of a number of journalists in South Africa. We are very distressed to witness the deterioration of the status of the press in your country."—Agence France-Presse.

reports of heavy legal sanctions imposed in newspapers causing severe financial constraints and difficulties. We urge you to respect the freedom of the press and not to resort to the repression of all forms of criticism, a practice unknown in democratic countries.

I enclose a list of journalists about whom we are greatly concerned. Ten have been detained without trial under the Terrorism Act, three are being held under the Internal Security Act, and three have been banned. We are particularly anxious about the case of Tony Holiday, whose health is suffering. We urge you to release him as soon as possible to ensure that he receives proper medical attention.

We have also just heard about the arrest on December 19 of two journalists with *The Voice*, Phil Mthimkulu and Mrs Judy Mayet. Mrs Mayet is a widow and a mother of seven children, and she is solely responsible for the financial support of her family.

We would like assurances that your Government will cease harassment of journalists and the press and release all journalists now in detention."—Agence France-Presse.

Biko damages claims sent to Government ministers

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, Dec 23

Letters containing large claims for damages arising out of the death in police detention of Steve Biko, the South African Black Consciousness leader, were today sent to Mr Kruger, the Minister of Justice, and Dr van der Merwe, the Minister of Health.

The total amount being claimed is reported to be in the region of £210,000, although Mr Shum Chetty, the Biko family lawyer, declined today to confirm this figure. If correct, it would be one of the largest civil claims ever made in South Africa.

Mr Kruger is being sued as Minister responsible for the security police, in whose

custody Mr Biko was being held up to the time of his death on September 12. Dr van der Merwe is regarded as responsible for the district surgeon, Dr Benjamin Tuck and Dr Ivor Lang, who attended Mr Biko after he had been hurt during an alleged scuffle with the security police.

At the inquest, Mr Sydne Ktridge, counsel for the Biko family, accused the two doctors of joining the security police in this conspiracy of silence related to Mr Biko's condition.

The inquest decided that no one could be held responsible for Mr Biko's death.

Under South African law, unless the demand is met within 30 days the family can sue in a civil case.

Feuding chess challengers agree to play on today

From Our Correspondent

Brigade, Dec 23

A technical solution was found today to the dispute between Boris Spassky and Viktor Korchnoi, the world chess title challengers, and their 20-game match will be resumed tomorrow.

The compromise was reached after Dr Max Euwe, president of the International Chess Federation, had spent all night in separate talks with the two players.

The dispute is over whether a demonstration board for spectators should be within sight of the players. Korchnoi complained after Spassky had spent most of the evening game away from the table, studying the position on the demonstration board and reappearing only to move his pieces.

When the referee ruled that in future the demonstration

board should be out of sight, Spassky refused to continue the match, arguing that the condition had not been met.

The required tenth game will now be rescheduled tomorrow in a small hall without a demonstration board. But the board will be back as Spassky wishes for the twelfth game.

What happens after that is uncertain as both players are insisting on their point. It will need all of Dr Euwe's persuasive powers to save the match.

On a separate issue, the organizing committee decided today that the pieces with which the first 10 games were played should be used again. Spassky, who originally chose them himself, had then changed his mind.

The match is to decide who will challenge Anatoly Karpov for the world championship. At present Korchnoi leads 6½-3½.

Argentina 'tops list for jailing innocents'

Washington, Dec 23.—There are more innocent victims in prison in Argentina than in all the rest of South America, according to a report on human rights issued by the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a private organization.

This year, no Latin American country had a greater record of human rights violations than Argentina. It had 18,000 political prisoners, a figure supported by information from various sources, some official.

Uruguay and Argentina are listed as the least respectful of human rights, together with Chile, where a totalitarian system was being set up.

The council listed Paraguay, Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala as countries with only slight respect for

human rights. It called for clemency for Peru and Ecuador.

Venezuela was best and Brazil was improving, but no nation deserved good marks in respect for human rights, the report said. Even in Mexico and Costa Rica, where conditions were far better than in most of Latin America, there were many political prisoners.

Buenos Aires: A "sizeable" number of political prisoners will be freed before the end of the year, the newspaper *La Opinion* reported. Those released would be prisoners who were not facing trial or implicated in "subversive activities".

London: Latin American Newsletters said it was taking up with the British Foreign Office the disappearance in

Argentina. It called for clemency for Peru and Ecuador.

Opposition in Likud to peace plan is crushed

From Moshe Brilliant

Tel Aviv, Dec 24

Opposition to Mr Begin's Middle East peace plan inside the ruling Likud Party was crushed in Jerusalem today when a caucus of the party's Knesset faction endorsed the Prime Minister's proposals by 29 votes to two with one abstention.

The caucus was closed to the press, but the opponents, Miss Geula Cohen and Mr Moshe Shamir, are known to have objected to the proposals concerning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which they claimed effectively renounced Jewish sovereignty over those parts of the ancestral Jewish homeland.

At the three-and-a-half-hour meeting, the Likud deputies, for the first time heard from their leader a detailed outline of the proposals for peace with Egypt, and guidelines for a settlement of the Palestinian problem which Mr Begin is to present to President Sadat in Ismailia on Sunday.

Participants said they had a more complete picture than they had received from fragmented statements by Mr Begin to the American media, but they were sworn to secrecy.

The scheme is expected to be made public after the meeting with Mr Sadat. The Knesset is to hear a report from the Prime Minister next week after he returns from Ismailia.

Earlier this morning, Mr Begin reported to the parliamentary foreign affairs and security committee whose members had complained of not having been consulted earlier. The committee debate was not concluded and it is to continue tomorrow night after the end of the Jewish Sabbath.

Mr Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour opposition, said after the meeting: "I don't change my mind easily."

The participants of this meeting were also pledged to secrecy. However Mr Peres, on the basis of news reports, had earlier criticized the proposal



President Sadat at prayers with Mr Osman Ahmad Osman, his father-in-law, yesterday at a mosque near Ismailia.

giving autonomy to the Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

His criticism has been that self-rule and democratic elections in the areas may lead to the evolution of a Palestinian entity between Israel and Jordan. The Labour Party has advocated a solution in the context of a Jordanian-Palestinian state under which parts of the West Bank would be ceded to Jordan. The reasoning is that in any case many Jordanians are of Palestinian origin.

Mr Abu Ghazaleh, the former Foreign Minister, said there were different appraisals within the Labour Party. He was encouraged, because President Sadat had not discontinued the negotiations after the Ameri-

cans showed him Mr Begin's proposals, and that the United States and Britain had given them "a greater degree of encouragement than they usually give Israeli plans".

Jerusalem: Mr Amnon Rubinstein, a leading moderate from the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC), said after hearing Mr Begin's plans that he thought it was now up to the Arabs to show the spirit of compromise.

Mr Begin has made some major, some heavy concessions and it is up to us to compromise", he told reporters.

"I think Egypt and the Arabs should show compromise too. There is no question of accepting an Arab *Diktat*".

Leading article, page 13

Fears of expansion on seven neighbours' minds

Distrust over Brazil's intentions in Amazonia holds up development

From Patrick Knight

Sao Paulo, Dec 23

Suspicion of Brazil's motives by its neighbours has led to a setback for Brazilian diplomacy. In recent talks in Brasilia, representatives from the eight countries with territory in the Amazon basin dispersed without ratifying a draft "multilateral cooperation treaty" as Brazil had hoped.

The others, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela were concerned to discover what Brazil's real motives were for proposing the formation of the so-called "Amazon Pact". Fears of its expansionist intentions appear to outweigh the evident advantages of joining together.

A strong reason for cooperation is the fear that if the zone—larger than Europe and rich in strategic and valuable minerals—is not physically occupied and developed by them all, might be annexed by force.

Half of both Bolivia and Peru lie within the Amazon basin, and representatives of both took exception to the phrase "physical integration".

Venezuela and Peru fear the same might happen to them. No other country has built a proportionate amount of roads as Brazil. Peru feels that the creation of the pact is pre-

pared to put on a formal basis.

Brazil's neighbours have some reason to be anxious. During the past 10 years, 7,000 miles of new roads have been cut through the forest by Brazil, running to the borders of Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Guyana and almost to Surinam.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants have moved along them in search of vacant lands.

Many have already crossed into the empty eastern plains of Bolivia. Their produce is invariably exported and marketed in Brazil, benefiting that country alone.

The return of the Crown of St Stephen without United States Senate approval is tantamount to entering into a treaty between the United States and Hungary without the required two-thirds majority vote of the Senate as required by article 2 of the United States Constitution.

It has been suggested that Brazil is anxious to see the pact formed so that it can use it as a Trojan horse for access to the Andean Pact. The remaining five members of the economic grouping, now that Chile has withdrawn, would be Amazon Pact members—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. They now absorb 5 per cent of Brazil's exports, and since, according to Andean Pact regulations, tariffs will be gradually raised, Brazil is anxious to circumvent this.

So far, rescue teams working for the Red Cross have recovered 22 bodies from the wreckage of 45 silos which blew up in quick succession yesterday.

The crown was taken from Hungary in November, 1944, to prevent it falling into the hands of Soviet troops occupying the country. It was delivered to American forces which had entered Austria and has been in American hands since.

34 feared dead in American silo explosion

New Orleans, Dec 23.—Rescuers dug through tons of shattered concrete and twisted steel today searching for 11 men trapped under the rubble of a massive grain elevator by an explosion that may have killed as many as 34 people.

Mr Le Thanh Nghi, Deputy Prime Minister, said in a report to the National Assembly in Hanoi that workers who achieved high production must be given practical encouragement "including those who served the United States puppet regime".

In 1978 a number of urgent problems in the wage and bonus system would be dealt with and the piecework system would be widely applied, he said.

Reporting that results had fallen short of this year's state plan targets, the minister said that under the 1978 plan gross national output was expected to increase by 21.5 per cent and export turnover by 45 per cent.

Agence France-Presse

Hongkong anti-corruption drive dries up flow of gifts

From Our Correspondent

Hongkong, Dec 23

Hongkong is suffering this year its lowest level of traditional Christmas box gifts from banking, commercial and trading concerns and hotels to their clients and customers.

In the old days, boxes of wine, bottles of whisky and brandy and expensive Chinese ornaments were offered and accepted as legitimate Christmas and Chinese New Year gifts.

But the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has struck this flow of conventional presents.

An unofficial survey of the old practice this week has re-

US defence spending to rise by £9,300m

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Dec 25

The next American defence budget will total \$126,000m (£74,000m). This is \$9,300m more than the present budget, an increase of about 2 per cent in real terms.

The Pentagon wanted to spend \$130,000m and the Navy, in particular, is much damaged by the President's hard-headed refusal to give the Pentagon what it needs.

The budget will be submitted to Congress at the end of January and immediately the generals and admirals will start issuing public warnings that the Russians are drawing ahead even faster than the US and that more billions of defence will save the union.

Congress and most commentators usually respond calmly to these philippics. They have heard them all before. Another reason for their calm is that the Pentagon often fails to spend all the money it is given.

The Navy is well behind on spending for the present year and will be allowed to build 15 new ships for \$4,700m instead of the 19 ships at \$5,800m which had been agreed. All in all, the Navy will have to make do with \$42,000m.

It will also have to make do with fewer F14 jet fighters, perhaps taking F13s instead. The commercial and industrial base between the builders of these two fighters continues.

The American budget year begins on October 1. President Carter, like practically every other presidential candidate in history, promised during the election campaign that he would cut waste out of the defence budget.

He claims he has done so, and he did indeed cancel the B1 bomber last spring. But at the same time he has allowed the defence budget to increase both in real terms and as a proportion of Government spending.

The American budget year begins on October 1. President Carter, like practically every other presidential candidate in history, promised during the election campaign that he would cut waste out of the defence budget.

He claims he has done so, and he did indeed cancel the B1 bomber last spring. But at the same time he has allowed the defence budget to increase both in real terms and as a proportion of Government spending.

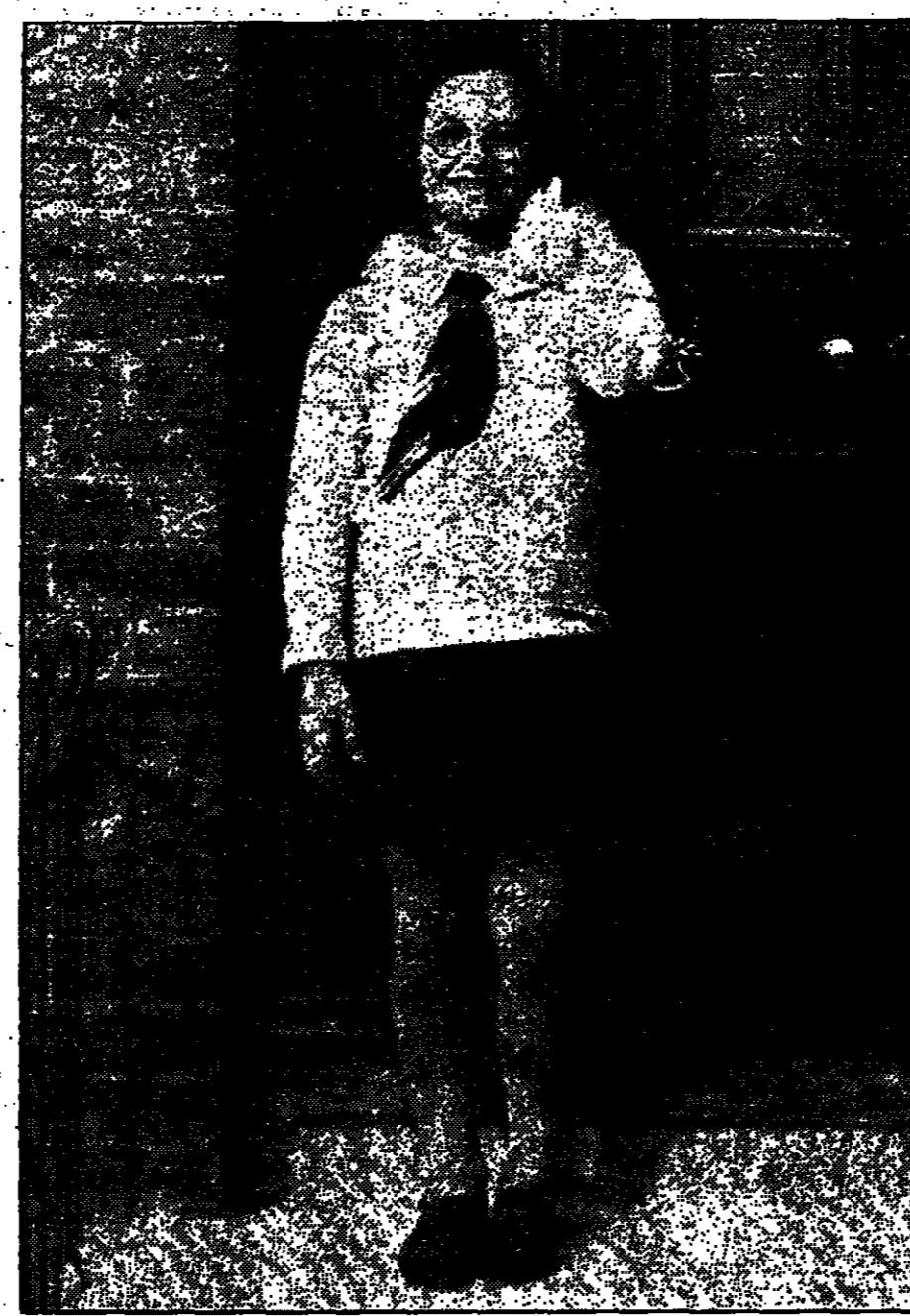
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Saturday Review



Above : Bertie Fletcher ("Asterisk") aged about 10



Above left : Penelope with rabbit at Siles, The Grove, Deal, Kent

Above : wedding picture of Robert and Nellie Fletcher

Uncle Bertie

by Penelope Mortimer

Each of my grandmother's bore 11 children. This fact is one of the few things my father and mother had in common, and with it an early apprenticeship to death. Brothers and sisters died frequently. They were commemorated in cameo brooches, mourning rings and the letters of Faculty Bibles.

Like Charlie May, Jack—all were ghosts long before I was born. Not only the siblings, but the fathers too went early to death, possibly in the hope of gaining more health, wealth and wisdom in another world. They were both in their graves by the time they were in their late forties, leaving 22 children and two wives between them, to carry on the family business as best they might. I never knew my grandfather, and seldom speculated about them. It is only now, as I write about them, that their personalities become interesting.

I have no idea what my father's father Robert looked like. In the one photograph we have—a wedding picture, fancy, from the stern and determined expressions on both my grandparents' relatively young faces—he is indistinguishable from any other early Victorian middle class burgher: straight backed, stiff collared, moderately whiskered, a model of reliability and moral hygiene. He died, I believe, from swallowing a stone. He was a printseller and not in business at the time; though I heard that in the very distant past he had rolled in many directions, getting no more.

His letters to my schoolboy father were domestic, anxious, even kind—or they showed the jocular cruelty that fathers often used in order to be kind:

4th March 1895—My darling boy . . . I have been very busy and Mother is laid up with a nasty attack of influenza, she has been in bed since Wednesday and has been very poorly indeed . . . I hope it won't be so bad as you expect about the sickness in the School . . . if they are obliged to close the School I should think Mr Hale would keep his own boarders on until a proper time for breaking up. We shall soon be moving into our new house. Elsie is in for an attack of influenza I am afraid, I left her in bed this morning . . . I am glad you are doing better this term. I hope you will continue in the same good way. I don't really think I can manage to find time to write any more now as I have such a lot to do . . .

13th March 1895—I am glad to say that Mother and Jessie are both better and able to be out, but poor little Phyllis has been very poorly and is in bed today . . . I hope you will keep up your carpentering as there is a nice carpenter's shop in the garden at Strood and there will be plenty of work

for us all . . . I hope you will be in a good position in your form until the holidays—no excuses, mind! . . . Now old boy I really can't stay to say any more as they are waiting to set the tea table . . .

8th April 1895—Wednesday is the dreadful day on which you leave your dear school and come to the miserable place known as "home". If you don't like the idea of coming home, I can arrange with Mr Hale for you to stay at Balswick during the holidays, but if you would like, just a little bit, to come to us, Bertie shall meet you in London and come down with you. Now you must be sure and catch the train I give you—it leaves Woodford at five minutes to ten. You must take a ticket to Fenchurch Street and Bertie will be there to meet you. It is a Fenchurch Street train so you will not have to change. You will then arrive at Strood soon after twelve o'clock. I enclose your postal order for three shillings which will be more than you will want you can account to me for the change on Wednesday . . . Don't be late and be sure to go to Fenchurch Street.

5th May 1895—I'm very glad to tell you that dear little Phyllis is better today . . . I shall be very pleased for you to bring Cobie with you on Friday. You must be sure and not be late in getting to Chelmside, as I expect there will be a pretty considerable crowd. I enclose a postal order for four shillings which you can give to Bertie to pay for your railway fares to London and back and the change you can give me when I see you. Mind you don't forget . . . Your loving Father.

He sounds an amiable, harassed man; my father never spoke of him to me, and I never asked. Compared with my grandmother, he had obviously even to his children, been irrelevant.

I didn't like my paternal grandmother. Her name was Eleanor ("Nellie") to those friends she had) and she was a large, fierce and demonstrative sort of my mother's mother who had a large wart, or possibly mole, on her left cheek which I imagined—with the rich disgust I chewed through gristle on the Sunday roast—biting off. It seemed to me that she lived in a pokey, dark house, though this was probably because she was the kind of woman who overflowed normal furniture and could have filled a small ballroom with her moody presence, the house (Siles—The Grove, Deal, Kent)—how many envelopes reluctantly addressed, letters even more reluctantly written?—was probably the usual gloomy, was probably the first woman I ever knew to have a mask-

eromy. Not only did she have one; she talked about it. But by that time I must have been in my teens and aware of the fact that women had breasts until I grew them myself, I didn't notice their existence.

The rest of my father's siblings escaped, in curious ways, from my grandmother, their loving mother. A sister, I believe, ran off with an organist and "lived in sin" wherever that was. She was never mentioned. A brother emigrated to America—I do not know his name or where he lived, but recall that he wrote my father a letter when I was about thirteen. It began (I can see the script now sloping and orderly) "Hi, you old sky-pilot!" My father, appalled, dropped it ostentatiously into the wastepaper basket; from which I am sure (it was very lonely) he recovered it.

There were aunts in this unhappy house: Jessie and "dear little Phyllis". The former, in my memory, was a venomous woman, with all the fragrance of vinegar, a devotee of the Methodist Chapel, a scrawny, sour creature. Nevertheless, it was Jessie I wrote to from school when I lost my purse; it was Jessie who sent me a new shilling note and didn't, as far as I know, tell my father. Why did I choose her to confide in? Why was she so garrulous? If the eyes of a child are often the eye of memory, perhaps with a touch of spite and shot himself. He was married and fathered what seemed to me an inordinate number of children—they arrived in Deal long after the scandalous event, and shattered the ruffled gloom with their unfortunate accents and high spirits. In retrospect, I preferred them to my other Australian cousins, my mother's nephews and nieces, who dogged my childhood with their dreadful adolescence, nobility of soul and aptitude for matrimony. One of these last—and I shall repeat this, for it awes me—became a

a lot more interesting; a shrew, a wench, acid-tongued with glittering, raty-eyes and a bundle of old hair. Distorted by imagination, she achieves a kind of Grimm-like originality.

Phyllis, a pleasant-faced person of indeterminate age, was always confusingly referred to as "the baby". I assume she was the eleventh child and—in spite of Robert's concern for his infant shuffles—grew up fatherless. There was always something faintly daring about Phyllis; almost, to my puritanical child's mind, risqué. She seemed to laugh more often than the rest of the family, which, since they seldom seemed to laugh, was all the more memorable. I even had the feeling—unexplainable, vaguely troubling—that my brother's attitude towards her was not entirely nephew-like. Perhaps she was pretty—I don't know. She married, anyway, and in later life became a driving, indomitable personification of the devil-may-care image, skirts occasionally riding above the knee. Cancer ravaged this family, and Phyllis was the first woman I ever knew to have a mask-

eromy, even though Bertie himself wrote to me of his son: "he is married to a lady of his mother's complexion—has two children, a nice frank plumpness and a cutter. So he is, doubtless, happy."

These cousins must be a decade or so older than I am, and have never heard of me, or Bertie, or their grandmother who was feared by God. Uncle Bertie abandoned them, it seems, without conscience. I hope they all prospered, and that they, in a warmer climate, have made better use of the opportunities that I have had.

The story I grew up believing was that he followed my father to Cowley. My father, though he may not have known it, hated Bertie. I loved him. When my father was heavy and blunt, Bertie was sharp-something like his sister Jessie in the way he could set your teeth on edge; but, being a man, he was free to express his rather jaundiced view of life in wit rather than venom. Besides, Australia, where he edited a newspaper, got into trouble ("Duck and game-bloody" whispered my mother, perhaps with a touch of spite) and shot himself. He was married and fathered what seemed to me an inordinate number of children—they arrived in Deal long after the scandalous event, and shattered the ruffled gloom with their unfortunate accents and high spirits. In

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these last—and I shall repeat this, for it awes me—became a

quotient laugher, in the process of becoming mature teachers. Years of "ushering" had had its effect on my Uncle Bertie. He had filled with power; any nine-year-old who came his way, even a baby, was liable to have its life changed. Whether or not he thought that I was suffering from the inhibitions of a country Vicarage, or pried me for having over-emotional, uneducated, troublesome off for a walk, I don't know. But I was right in believing that I would never forget what he meant that I hope they have avoided the continual threat of Hell, the illusory promise of heaven, and the absurd moral obligation to disparage almost everything in hellish. Perhaps that was just as well that they didn't know their father.

Bertie returned home to find himself erased from the Family Bible. He probably knew, being a cynic, that this was only a temporary disowning; nearly all the children were passed out and re-admitted so many times that the "record pages" look like a shopping list made by a housewife. It is the state of stock. Besides, he had probably found "hidden" some things of "the villages" (as my mother called my father's parishioners) distinguishing them, as a tribe, from those who lived in towns or cities or the middle of nowhere. I had changed my name, and was unfamiliar with my alias. Perhaps I went to Bude to say goodbye. I don't know. I can't remember ever seeing Bertie again.

He retired to a house in Deal, where he lived alone, transcribing books into Braille and cherishing the remnants of a few dreams: "Do you read French?" he wrote me. "If so, do you know French? I am slow in learning these days, but I admire him very much. When I am not reading modern French, I read and read Don Quixote. For years I have toyed with the idea of writing a life of Sanchez. I still toy." I was corresponding with him in the late fifties, as I was writing a profile of my father and discovered, rather too late, that I knew nothing about him. "Please", he wrote, "don't let this Lazarus correspondence die again. I am tragically alone mentally, but I cheer up wonderfully at threatened contact . . . I am very lonely really. So please, my dear, be generous with your letters . . ."

There was mean of some kind for lunch. I was told I could eat it with my fingers. Perhaps I was told to eat it with my fingers. I am sure that neither Bertie nor Diana told me that fingers were made before forks, an expression used by my female relatives to excuse, though not condone, my terrible table manners. Two of my favourite fancies at that time were of Robin Hood and his Merry Men stuffing themselves with meat and bread round their fire in Sherwood Forest; and of Hiawatha growing venson, hair, skin and meat skinning with oil and gravy. I ate like an outlaw and a warrior. Uncle Bertie approved. He then made his one mistake and gave me a young rabbit, a nasty little

thing with pink skin under its long white hair, which for some reason I called Gashad.

As usual, Bertie returned to drift out of my life for a while. I remember little about him during the next nine years. I simply do not know why I insisted that my husband and I went to stay with him for the sake of our honeymoon. It seems extraordinary, but speculate, but speculation is irrelevant.

Bertie was teaching in Bude, Cornwall; we had spent the first week or so in lodgings in Sidmouth, because that is what my husband's parents had done. In Bude, my uncle took a room for us in a vast, antique hotel. It was November, cold, drenched in mist and sea. We were the only guests, and slidden along the corridors like children. Presumably I also saw Bertie, since that was the only place we could get to. It is then, I believe, the age of eighteen, that I begin to lose sight of myself and the particular world around me. I had changed my name, and was unfamiliar with my alias. Perhaps I went to Bude to say goodbye. I don't know. I can't remember ever seeing Bertie again.

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It was then that he sent me a faded copy of *Isles of Illusion* inscribed, "To Penelope Mortimer (Peggy) from Asterisk, a very little star, long set, to a rising larger one". I realize now, for the first time, that Bertie was the only one of my entire family who, without resentment, beiderlden or disapproval, might have been proud of me. I do not know when he died.

© Penelope Mortimer 1975. Penelope Mortimer is currently working on the autobiography of the years up to her twenty-first birthday, from which this extract is taken. It will be published by About Time under the title *About Time*.

Television

In a normal week the real trouble with television is that so much of it is so good (or at least so important). From those splendid, now-to-be-repeated plays, those seductive series, from those half-eaten documentaries, who shall escape? Certainly not the concerned citizen, and only with difficulty the hedonist.

Throughout next week, which is not normal, the box in the corner will continue to extort. "Urrah, but the telly will be a borrowed one, take away the concerned mind of world cinema and what are you left with? Nothing. I would guess, worth missing a party or a walk in the country for. This column, one-eyed in the country of the blind, must deal with the squishy manner sandwiched between the classic films and the chief musical items, and is therefore written for security guards, lighthouse keepers, and for all those who, without getting into detail, I prefer modest amusement to crashing television boredom.

No point in discussing the high peaks of showbiz, nor the regular Christmas cornerstones. People like what they like. In our household we shall observe one Queen's Speech and as many Garland songs, Kelly leaps and Baxter skirts as can comfortably be

fitted in. Benny Hill, Dick Emery, Verwood, Morecambe, Wise and Farnydy, everybody who is anybody gets their Christmas apoteosis.

The Beeb shall lie down with the IRA, and a great schnauz shall cover the land.

"Family entertainment" (ugh) is graced by "choreographers" (?) and I would be failing in my duty to readers if I omitted to mention the fact that *Emu's Christmas Adventure* is even humper and more vacuous than prejudice might have suggested. I would equally be failing in my duty to London Weekend, who bravely offered a preview, if I did not also point out that this show is probably no worse than others of its kind which are wisely being withheld from critical view.

In *The All Star Record Breakers* 500 white-clad girls in Ruby Keeler tap their way through "East 42nd Street" at Television Centre. (Hum! Bob Crighton, the *King* that is not sticky enough, and Michael Hordern's *Scrooge* seems distinctly not scabby, making one think more of good dinners than of gruel. His conversion, however, is most convincing, and the final explosion of comfort and joy left me with a tear in my eye which was not, I think, solely attributable to the cold from which I was suffering at the time. I

I shall not watch William's *Worst Christmas* (ITV, Christmas Day) a second time, but I

enjoyed it when I saw it. A big boy now, Adrián Dantani still purveys the genuine article, and this long episode did justice to Wilkins' capacity for forging social disasters from the best intentions. There are some lovely ham performances, notably from Julian Orchard and Diana Dors, and John Davies directs with gusto. To see such fun (ITV), which should have been pure delight, is a profoundly irritating piece of work. The compilers of this muddle of comedy clips through the ages have cut and cut and cut, giving us a series of 30-second climaxes, like goals with kisses, the distillate of comedy rather than the living, breathing thing. It has considerable antiquarian interest however—early Howards, early Cliff Richard (how much younger he looks now), early Max Wall (how handsome then) and early Stanley Baxter (ugly!). One thing's sure: you won't actually laugh at this programme unless you've got a treble whisky in your hand.

There are some tender moments, including some pleasant music makers at the Albert Hall in *The Schoolroom Carol* (BBC 2) and *Bertrand's Side Show* (BBC 2) in which Beller Rambler revive a delightful work which they used to perform in happier days before they started to take themselves too seriously. We may dip into *Orpheus in the Underground* (BBC 2) for its technical effects, but not for its

enjoyed in our house, but not again by me despite its beautiful virgin scenery. It's a sentimental tale of good (nature) and evil (civilization) in which the wisest character is a heroic pelican orphan. I couldn't quite believe in the relationship between Storm Boy and his father, who looks as though he has just met for the first time on location. David Gulpilil, of *Walkabout* fame, makes a flamboyant noble savage. Later in the evening we shall pay seasonal tribute to the intrepid John Martin of Leek and to the maker of an utterly mundane, utterly charming home movie about a family Christmas in 1954. *Christmas Past* (BBC 2) is the kick-off for an interesting series showing exhausted movies of the early 1950s cinema enthusiasts. Then—of course—*The Big Sleep*.

On Boxing Day our television will turn into a cinema—*War and Peace* and *Gumshoe*.

Wednesday evening offers a direct clash between two new artifacts, and I can unhesitatingly recommend *Our Day Out* (BBC 2) in preference to *Washington: Behind Closed Doors* (BBC 1), which is where this new six-part hack epic should have remained hidden, if the first episode is anything to go by. It is true that *Watergate*, which was about grimy machinations by grimy little men, was successfully given a romantic face in *All the President's Men*, but this gem dwells largely on the clenched jaws, the scowls and swarthy armatures of the men at the centre. It keeps trying to end but, each time, on it goes again. "It's a long time," says Jason Robards weary as he settles down in his campaign jet, in yet another bid to summon up the credits. "Don't worry, sir. The good times are coming," says an aide brightly. "I'm not so sure. Willy Russell's play *Our Day*

continues. The unhappy pair are heavily pregnant with social messages, big some delicious, and deliciously awful, moments. Having suffered many a time rampaged in disorder on their way to the swimming bath or the local library (and even having once lost a boy in Paris), I can vouch for its educational authenticity. Born in Conway, I can recommend this glimpse of that pretty place. Because of ITV's cinematic competition Clive Exton's Christmas ghost story, *Sigune* (BBC 1) will not be watched *chez nous*. Well made, well acted (hear the hero of *Love for Lydia* use a Wilshire accent!) this is a strong little drama (though I would add that it quite failed to chill my blood).

On Thursday *Croxford* (ITV) is, I'm told, quite jobby and *The Ballad of Salomon Pazy* (ITV) sounds interesting. *Dark Star* (BBC 2), which here gets its British premiere, is reliably rumoured to be a highly original and witty sci-fi film. I may watch *Music by Jerome Kern* (BBC 1) a second time, but this is because I have Arthur Schopenhauer's corn-crack voice, or his plucking way of playing the piano, nor even for the coarse-grained studio performances of the master's timeless numbers. Schwartz's basic recipe just is a good one—he makes a strong case for regarding Kern as a cultural milestone, and the

hour is painlessly crammed with musical information.

I can only report on the second half of the Czech film of *The Little Mermaid* (BBC 2) which gets its British premiere next Friday. A spell was cast on the video link between Shepherds Bush and Piccadilly and all we got for the first half hour was a soundtrack (the first two minutes sounded suspiciously like a blue movie). The director, who goes in for a lot of artistic water photography, clearly admires Hockney, and some of the aqueous scenery is a real delight. But the whole thing has a slightly cardboard quality from the dubbing and dialogue ("Don't be angry with me, O sorceress!") to the pretty hairdos of the starlet and her pretty prince. Silvánk in the rescue scene is particularly well cast, and the comical Moritz Hamisch (BBC 2) in preference to the first episode of *The Professionals* (ITV), and the day will end with *Khate*.

Michael Church

TV films

With the BBC offering more than 30 feature films and ITV adding another dozen, there should be enough to keep anybody from whimpering because they can't get tickets for *Star Wars*. ITV, it must be said, could have been a bit more seasonal in their choices. Their big ones are Richard Attenborough's debut 1971 biograph of Young Winston (Christmas Day, 7.15) and J. Lee Thompson's *The Guns of Navarone* (Boxing Day, 2.30). Their best (which is not at all the same thing) are Stephen Frears' funny and beautiful first film *Gunshoe* (Boxing Day, 10.30) with Albert Finney as a would-be Bogart from the Industrial North; and, for nostalgia, Sam Wood's 1943 *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (Wednesday, 10.20).

Otherwise, ITV can come up with nothing better than a sub-standard Alastair MacLean thriller, Michael Tuchner's 1972 *Fear is the Key* (Tuesday, 8.30), and a couple of films that didn't quite: Lionel Jeffries' rare of time-travellers for children, *The Amazing Mr Blunden* (Tuesday, 2.30) and Jacques Demy's weird *The Pied Piper* (Tuesday, 11.05), and, made in Britain in 1971, with Donovan in the title role.

The BBC's season offerings start today with *White Christmas* (BBC 1, 1.30). Bing Crosby had been singing the title song since 1942 and a better film, *Holiday Inn*, but this is a nice enough putting-on-a-show musical, with 12 Irving Berlin numbers and Bing and Danny Kaye as old army huddles reaming up with Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen (dubbed by Trudy Stevens) to save their old CO's winter holiday inn. Tomorrow (BBC 1, 4.10) Dorothy takes to the Yellow Brick Road in the now traditional Christmas Day screening of the unfading *The Wizard of Oz*; and for the fourth day of Christmas (Wednesday, BBC 1, 2 pm) there are Charles Walters' *The Glass Slipper*, a pretty Cinderella with Leslie Caron, but a bit too arty for its own good; and *These Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines* (BBC 1, 6.50), Britain's rather long-winded riposte to *The Great Race*. Directed by Ken Annakin, it has Stuart Whitman and Alberto Sordi alongside a bevy of domestic stars (including the late Tony Hancock), and some lovely old aeroplanes.

Other juvenile offerings today are 1935 Disney drama about a boy who dreams of being a mountaineer like his father, *Third Man on the Mountain* (BBC 1, 6.30), also directed by Ken Annakin; and *National Velvet* (BBC 1, 11.45 am) which was the making of 12-year-old Elizabeth Taylor who won the role which was the junior league equivalent of Scarlet O'Hara.

The other musicals are *Funny Girl* (Christmas Day, BBC 1, 10.05), William Wyler's 1965 bio-musical which coasts comfortingly from cliché to cliché, though if you ever heard

Fanny Brice sing "My Man",

Barbra Streisand won't do:

the 1961 *West Side Story*

(Tuesday, BBC 1, 9.35), directed (in succession) by Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise, which now looks like it heavy to have won all those Oscars and the 1953 *Calamity Jane* (Friday, BBC 1, 6.50), a very likeable and unpretentious piece of Americana, with Howard Keel and Doris Day. Though not a musical, MGM's 1948 version of *The Three Musketeers* (Friday, BBC 1, 1.55) derived a remarkable rhythmic and choreographic quality from the young Gene Kelly's swashbuckling in the role of D'Artagnan.

For Comedy there is a practical Donald O'Connor vehicle *Double Crosticina* this afternoon (BBC 1, 3.45), and tonight *M*A*S*H* (BBC 1, 11.15 pm) is the real thing, not the TV series. Still as amazingly funny in its account of the disreputable Korean war service of the 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, on its appearance in 1963 the film established Robert Altman as a key figure for the Seventies and revolutionised American film comedy. Also meriting second viewing are *Burnt Kennedy's 1968 blend of send-up and real nostalgia for the Western*, *Support Your Local Sheriff* (Monday, BBC 1, 6.05); and *Death at the Races* (Monday, BBC 2, 11.35 pm) vintage *Mary Poppins* with Margaret Dumont in full cry as Mrs Emily Upjohn, Dr Hugo E. Hackenbush's favourite patient. "Marry me," says the doctor, the qualified vet, "and I'll never look at another horse." On Tuesday BBC 1 is showing *Billy Wilder's* bleak farce about the private habits of the American executive, *The Apartment* (11.15 pm).

Not by any means seasonal, but still highly recommended is the extremely similar from the *Twenties*. However Hawk's *The Big Sleep* (Christmas Day, BBC 2, 10.55), the daddy of all the Bogart-Bacall films, and Alan J. Pakula's idiosyncratic 1971 thriller *Klute* (Friday, BBC 1, 11.25).

The rough-house of Robert Aldrich's 1967 *The Dirty Dozen* (Monday, BBC 1, 9 pm) is a matter of taste, and it's not mine; but *Silent Running* (Tuesday, BBC 1, 6.25) is worth a look as an original "ecological" science-fiction picture directed by Douglas Trumbull, who worked on special effects of *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Obligingly the BBC offers a chance to see the whole, uncut Soviet *The Dirty Dozen* (Tuesday, BBC 1, 2.30, Monday, 2.40 pm, 3 and 4, Tuesday 2.30). A triumph of production values over art, splendidly dressed and marshalling most of the Soviet armed forces, it confirms Serguei Bondarchuk as the dullest of the big names among contemporary Soviet directors. Most Russians admit a preference for *Karl Vidor's* *Version* version.

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The Elvis Presley season continues through the week from Monday to Friday on BBC 1, generally at 11 am except for *Jailhouse Rock* on Monday, which is at 10 am and the one most worth watching. And through the next two weeks preceding the Elvis films on BBC 1 you can follow all 12 episodes of *Flash Gordon* under Karl Böhm, a self-recommending concert.

By the time the Schubert has ended, music will be featuring on television. At 9 pm BBC 2 presents its substitute for King's carols, *Star over Christmas*, an international live programme of Christmas music which, by satellite, is able to

At 5.45 my loyalties will certainly be drawn away to ITV and *The Muppet Show*,

Emu with Rod Hull and friends (ITV, Christmas Day); Mr Percival in *Storm Boy* (BBC 2, Christmas Day).

Music

For theatregoers Christmas probably means the piano, for musical people Christmas carols which, in terms of radio and television, have long meant the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols broadcast every year from the chapel of King's College, Cambridge. This year's festival is, for once, not being televised, but is being broadcast twice, in quad and stereo, once on Christmas Eve (Radio 4, 3.05 pm) and again on Christmas Day (Radio 4, 3.00 pm).

The carols include Britten's "Hymn to the Virgin", Walton's "King Herod" and the "Cock", and Mathias' "A Babe is Born", as well as such standard favourites as Cornelius' "Three Kings" and "Quelle est cette odeur agréable". At 5.45 on Christmas Eve, André Previn's *Christmas Music Night*, with Lillian Watson and King's Choir to sing, Judi Dench to read poetry, while John Williams, Ossian Ellis, the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble and the LSO play music. Finally *Midnight Mass* is televised from Buckfast Abbey, also on BBC 1.

If, after all that, the Christmas piano is unappealing, all are ready for Father Christmas, and you are able to wake up on Christmas morning inclined for more music, at 8 am Radio London broadcasts carols old and new in *Christmas Present*, followed by *Christmas Soul* music in *Black London* (readers outside London must themselves find local variations for radio).

Unless Christmas dinner is early, or rather late, it may have to compete with BBC 1 and part one of *Top of the Pops* 77 at 2.10. I find it a maddening programme, but inescapable because it just might include a "film as brilliant as that of *Queen*." *Bohemian Rhapsody* two years ago. At 3.10 BBC 2 shows Roland Perle's production of *Coriolanus*, compulsory for a ballet-starved family. Radio 4 turns comes at 5.15 when Radio 3 broadcasts Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with a promising cast under a pro-Bach interpreter, Richard Hickox.

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favourite viewing which deserves a place here for the brilliant antics of the orchestra (eg, the piano pianist and the drummer Animal), not to mention the expert musical arrangements. Then at 6.25 back to BBC 1 for *Family Carols with the Bach Choir and Philip Jones Brass Ensemble*. Radio listeners in London may be directed alternatively to a concert on Capital Radio at 6 pm, by the garrulous and chameleonic King's Singers.

Early risers on Boxing Day can watch ITV at 9 am when Adele Leigh, a once beloved operatic soprano who curtailed her career to become Mrs Australian Ambassador to Britain, narrates the origins of the carol, "Silent Night", with film taken in Austria. Then at 10.30 am *Michelangelo playing Ravel's Gaspard de la Nuit*, a major testimonial to his art. At 10.45, *Death and the Maiden*, and at 9.25 the annual *Christmas Music Quiz*, with posers set by Denis Marthews, a challenge to everybody's knowledge and memory.

On December 27 Radio 3 broadcasts, at 10.20 am, Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* and *Eroica Symphony* in performances on instruments of the period, surely a concert to stretch the ears of those accustomed to the modern concert grand and unaware of the orchestra he expects to hear. At 2.30 pm BBC 2 shows the *Twelve Days* in the much-admired Australian production with Lucette Aldous, Rudolf Nureyev, and Sir Robert Helpmann, then on BBC 2 at 7.55 is Carl Davis's pop opera called *Orpheus in the Underground*, see Michael Church above.

Between Christmas and New Year the musical representation sags, though on December 29 ITV at 11.15 pm shows a film of Britton's *St Nicolas* which won an Italia Prize this year, and Radio 3 at 10.30 am *Silent Snow* by the summer Salzburg Festival with Hildegard Behrens in the namepart and Karajan as conductor. John Higgins saw it, and was impressed; look forward to it.

New Year's Eve chiefly brings the live telecast of Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* from Covent Garden, the music simultaneously relayed in stereo by Radio 3. It should

be a very festive occasion, a jolly, boozey, romantic show, traditionally associated in its native Austria with New Year's Eve. For them *Silvester-Abend*.

At 10.30 am *Death and the Maiden* is the bicentenary of Schubert's birth. Throughout the year, at midnight, the station will broadcast one song, beginning with Elizabeth Schwarzkopf and Edwin Fischer in "Ad die Musik". Those who intend to listen and watch music during the approaching festivities will surely echo Schubert's refrain: "Lovely art, I thank you for that."

William Mann

One, Two, Three good films at the ACADEMY CINEMAS 165-167 Oxford Street, W.1.

ACADEMY 1 JOSEPH STRICK's film of JAMES JOYCE's A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN (AA)

"Reverent, intelligent, picturesque" SUNDAY TIMES

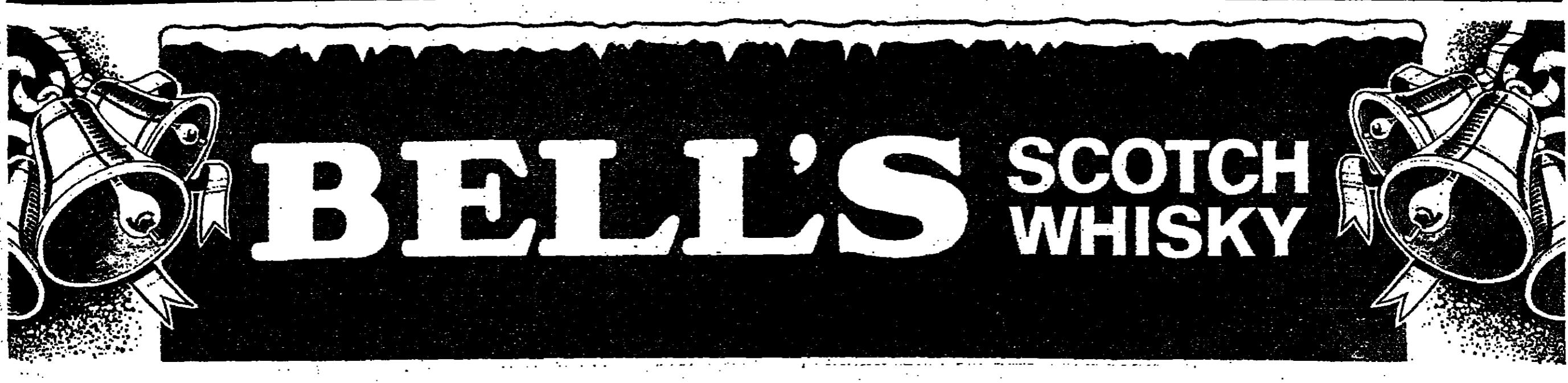
ACADEMY 2 The amazing ISABELLE HUPPERT in THE LACE-MAKER (AA)

"An extraordinary film... it starts where most others leave off" GUARDIAN

"Extremely moving" DAILY TELEGRAPH

ACADEMY 3 A brilliant and moving film by Japan's leading younger director

Nagisa Oshima's THE BOY (AA)



The Times Jumbo Crossword

Prizes of £10 will be given to each of the first three correct solutions opened on January 5. Entries should be addressed to The Times Christmas Jumbo Crossword, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The solution and prizewinners will be announced on January 7.

ACROSS

- Old play suggesting the pounding of mortar fire, Sir? (3, 6, 1, 3, 7, 6).
- Father consumes bread when on his beat (9).
- Caught in it, Eric looks jaundiced (7).
- 999 OK, if one breaks a leg? (9).
- Where Crockett fell, best in a ring (5).
- Refreshment here in summer abroad in the wilds of Africa (9).
- Such sweet delight relaxing in one? (7, 4).
- Goes on turning one into solid shapes (9).
- Expel? A cut that's ruinous—so prove innocence (9).
- Agent in stirring up physical defences (7).
- How a lawyer says his piece indeed! (7).
- Surrounded by the enemy, what can the poor see? (7).
- Must take something for this complaint (11).
- Cadet's aim, to perish miserably in Sanders's office (16).
- Like the frowning brow of the Iron Duke? (10).
- He who thus hesitated was wrong? (5).
- Very odd way to give longs a treat! (11).
- Type of artemisia used for flavouring a Spanish wine (3).
- Stop cooking mice in sage (9).
- George's salmon fish seems lively enough on the beach (4-7).
- A game of cards in it is far from fitting (5).
- One's engrossment with drinking perhaps (10).
- The best defence they say—to a shop-inspector's bad report? (7, 9).

DOWN

- Cock of the cake-walk? (3-6).
- In progress abroad prepares to start at Waterloo (7).
- A coiner, in a manner of speaking (9).
- Where rabbits have difficulty in going down their holes (4-7).
- Championships of first Football Association in need of revision (7).
- Proverbially, no such cowardice in Paris (16).
- Whereby a bowler cheats the batsmen (3, 6).
- Real big rise arranged for Italian infantry (11).
- "Chicanery" needed by drivers to circumvent them? (4-6).
- Some swimmers eventually dock out of this (7).
- Flirt with a ladies' man about tea-time (9).
- Record article in it with word of description (7).
- Head saw grand Chinese delicacy (7).
- One who won't forget being rooked at this old tavern? (8, 3, 6).

25 Reached give-and-take agreement—included incorporation of order (11).

26 Taken by a speaker in support of the chair (5).

28 Looks up Hamlet's opening words about a vessel of war (1-4).

29 From Antrim I go for a change of abode (9).

30 His country's champion—Red Rum? (11).

31 Occupants of beds seen in London hospital gardens (7, 6, 4).

32 The impropriety of this month's grog famous? (3).

33 Contemptuous rejection, one of those in Hamlet's 28 speech? (5).

35 A turn-up right in the back is not so common (5).

36 Missolini's saline nostrum (13, 3).

38 Odde on Pierre's place of retirement being in Yugoslavia (5).

39 Some particularities on crime (5).

42 Leading feature—nothing in it but a near catch perhaps? (5).

44 They are for writing musical entertainments (5).

48 With which fare A is happy (B is not) (3, 4, 4).

49 One's included us in a new version of Faust—when inanity! (11).

50 King of the Andes stole Turner's soul (10).

52 Many a man speeding things up yields the whip (9).

54 Change up in cases when horse-power is developed (9).

56 One who might take the part of Roscius? (4-5).

57 Note Nepalese leader going up with fresh vitality (9).

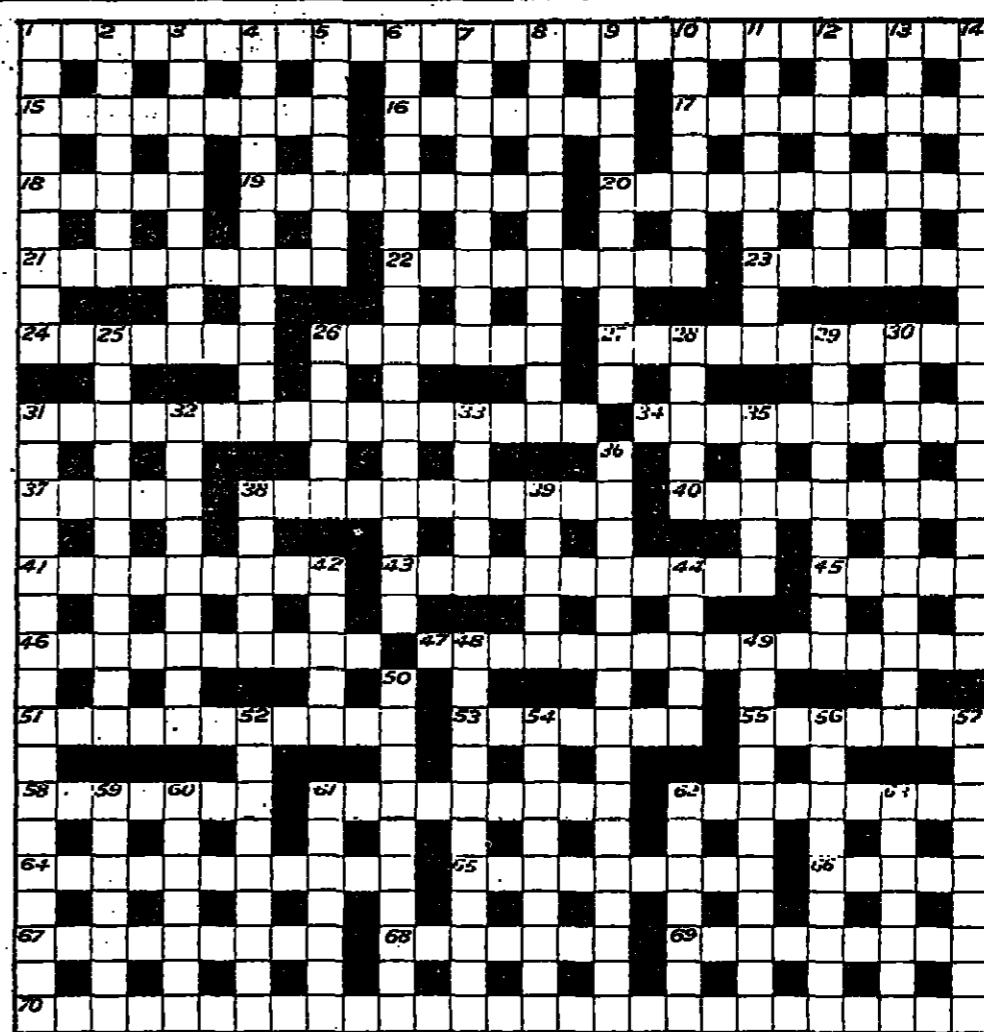
59 Monks unofficially putting Titus about a pound up (7).

60 It inspired a ballad by the lover of Jaques (7).

61 Smallest note, a quid? (7).

62 It gets anybody's blood up! (7).

63 Odd song about Lincoln turning up for lunch with a horse (7).



Name
Address

Radio

Past and future

Traditionally the Saturday before Christmas is dedicated to a sort of catalogue of all the jolly gift-wrapped programmes you might acquire in the unlikely event that you are able to spend quite a lot of your time in the last few days attending your radio. It is a tradition I am intending to respect, but not this year at the cost of ignoring utterly the output of a rather interesting week gone by, a week containing among other things Gordon Honeycombe's dramatization of the last two books in my edition of the last four—from Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* under the title *Lancelot and Guinevere* (producer Martin Jenkins).

Negative as it may sound,

as this

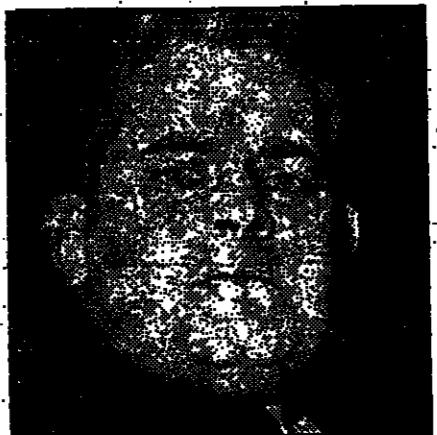
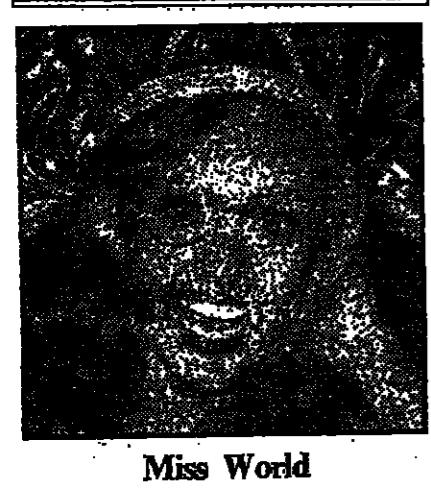
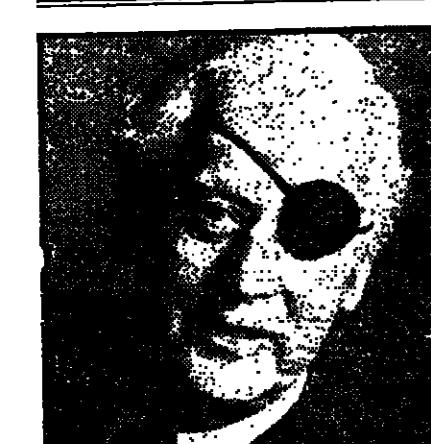
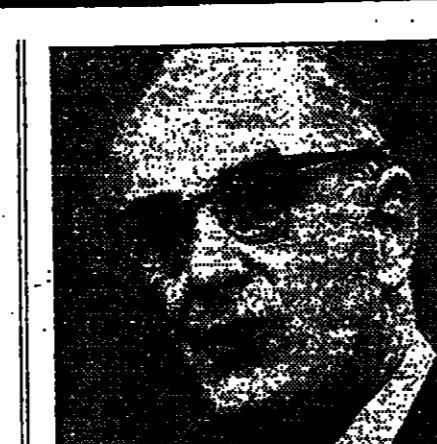
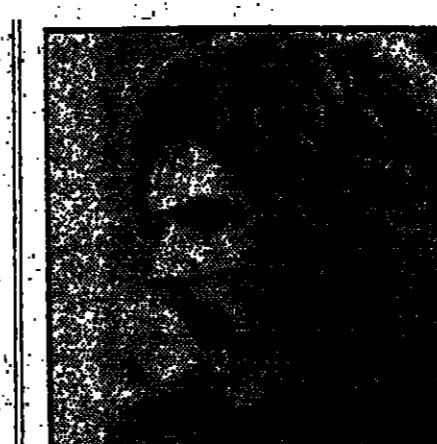
is

the

Weekend

SHOPAROUND

Sheila Black

invites you
to
playaroundJoan Bakewell
BotticelliRonnie Barker
Spaceman's KnockTrevor Brooking
'Pit' your witBarbara Cartland
Mime the gamePrince Charles
Kissing games?Earl of Drogheda
Gin rummyMiss World
Hates gamesTerry Wogan
Act the Finance ActShirley Williams
No party gamesLord Westwood
Guess who?R. C. Thornton
Mixed partiesMargaret Thatcher
Charades RaceHugh Scanlon
No participationAngela Rippon
Mean murderPhil Parkes
No fool heDr David Owen
Charades

One potato, two potato, three potato, four; 'murs in May'; apple-bobbing, a carrot for the donkey and presents hidden in a tub of bran or oats—games of my childhood were played with simple, familiar things in the days before toys without end, when the emphasis on food for games automatically linked them to the party spirit. The presents beneath the tree were mostly wrapped in plain brown paper and the hanging cards were nearly all hand-painted. There were no lights on the Christmas trees, only candles in clip-on candlesticks of painted, green metal and we could light them only for the card that went before the present-giving—my grandmother always had a smothering cloth and white enamel pots of water at hand.

My grandfather tried to get the service on the car's whisky radio and we caught snatches of carols which made us all sing so that it stopped merriment if the radio music faded. Christmas was a reunion of aunts, uncles, cousins, and several generations all playing games together in the large, cold house which I somehow remember with warmth, although we dressed and undressed by the kitchen range then flew through ice draughts to the cold beds, huddling under the blankets with our socks still on until the feet thawed and the bed warmed so that we could roll off the tapes and take off the camel-hair dressing gowns.

The secret of successful party games is that they should be able to be played by people of all ages, by the disabled and the invalid. Treasure hunts, paper games, card games all leave nobody out—try racing demon for the party card game if you have a large table and fast-playing, shouting screaming players. Consequences or heads-bodies-and-legs take in all ages and a great many crippled people. The important thing is not to have many games that are too competitive among individuals so that winning becomes the least important factor. It is one thing for a group of people to win, another for one bright child to walk off too often with laurels and become hated by his peers and his elders.

The outdoors scavenger hunt is a good exercise after over-eating and need not take too long if there are only a few simple objects, a snooker ball, a limn and the players go off in twos or threes. The scavenger hunt that involves laying clues rather than finding specified objects is our family way of giving at least one of the presents. The first clue is passed round to everyone and it should say something like "I'm browned off in here". At the signal, everyone starts playing and most will rush to the oven or toaster where lies a clue that can be read without being moved or removed. Everyone reads its message, leaving it untouched for later, comes and the clues get more and more difficult towards the end so that those who start in the first place have to start calling "hot" and "cold" and those who have finished and discovered their parcels begin to join in.

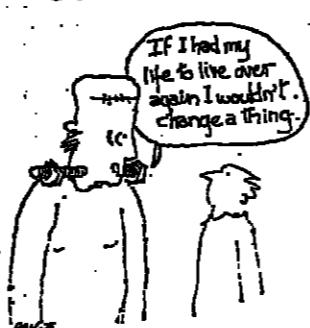
Finning the tail on the donkey is good for half an hour and there are many variations on the theme of the old advertisement game, when brand names were cut from a montage of familiar advertisements while the players guess what is advertised. It is much harder than anyone believes to fill the gaps. Television commercial jingles

can be taped in the same way, then edited to lose the brand names, but do tape each commercial three times in succession to give guessers a chance. The same game is often played with TV soap opera theme tunes but now is rather late to prepare the tapes so this game had better wait for another day of the holidays.

The golden rule is not to initiate party games where there are many, many reluctant guests. One or two game-breakers might be infected by the general fun but not more, and games rarely work in totally adult company. However, we did ask a number of well known grown-ups to tell us whether or not they liked party games and, if so, which ones did they like. Few were so positive as to hate party games. Michael Parkinson did hate them and probably still does, but Shirley Williams neither likes nor hates although she never seems to get involved in playing. And she is, curiously, Miss World, Mary Stavin, while the committee's organizer, Mrs Julia Morley, does not give parties, but for a few, "charades". But he likes games.

The apparently—on television—innocuous but giggling Mr Russell Harty's view is unclear since his secretary telephoned with a message that Mr. Harty really did not think it was strong on his line" but we are not quite clear as to whether he means party games or answering questions from *The Times* about party games. Mr Hugh Scanlon's pleasant letter had me puzzled as to whether he was pulling my leg or not when he wrote that he has very little spare time" in the type of party which would involve party games". He could have fooled me, but he may have had his tongue firmly in his cheek.

I did write to Prince Charles but since he is currently not giving even the briefest interviews except in the context of the silver jubilee appeal, you will have to devise your own kissing games.



Mrs Estee Lander, the leading cosmetician and perfumer, likes the same game as her husband Joseph and rather conveniently chooses one that can be played sitting down, even while still lingering at the dinner table. The guests are

all asked "If you had your life to live over—", and she finds that it recharges the conversation to end, that it induces people to relax and to start talking about much that they would have liked or would still like to do or enjoy. Over and over again, top businessmen express a longing for the arts and the evening becomes lively while everyone gets to know people easily, or discovers new facets in old friends.

The unbelievably active and youthful Barbara Cartland—who gets her share of teasing but really amazing for her age—likes party games, only at Christmas, preferring charades and card games over others at other times, which is possibly her way of falling in with John Ineson's "sit-and-chat" policy. Mrs Cartland likes one version of Botticelli, but she calls it simply "The Game". For this, the party is divided into two groups who are put into different rooms to choose their word, phrase or well-known saying. Each group then mimics its choice simultaneously in the party room and the first group to guess the other's word wins.

Terry Wogan finds himself with a mixed reaction to party games, directly dependent on his alcoholistic state at the time, but he does like charades when played with people who don't understand the game and who select such subjects to "Name That Tune" or "The Finance Act".

Phil Parkes, my favourite gookkeeper, who has done as much for Queen's Park Rangers as anyone could this disastrous season and who was a steward in the good years, neither likes nor hates party games but says: "Gone are not played at most of the parties I go to but I doubt if I would join in anyway. It's had enough making a fool of myself on Saturday afternoons without going to parties to do it." Endearing, simple, but I must staunchly insist that you and I don't make a fool of yourself any Sundays I watch.

Ronnie Barker's game has everything. He recommends "Spaceman's Knock—it's like Postman's Knock but you go further". Thank you, Ronnie the Larger, I have been lunching and dining on that one for three weeks now.

Denis Healey failed to fill in his form and to make a proper return, but the Opposition came up with an exciting game, yet another version of the charades/mime theme from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who calls it Charades Race, but admits to knowing no proper name for it. The party divides into two teams while an umpire holds a basket full of mottoes, phrases and occupations, etc. A member from each team takes a slip of paper from the basket simultaneously then names the words on it for the rest of his team to guess under the umpire's watchful eye, then another member dashes up for a slip and so it goes on until the entire team has mimed, guessed and earned a suitable reward.

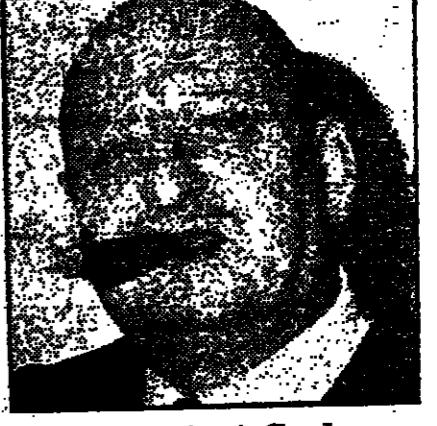
I am told, it gets fast and furious, leading to a lot of fun and laughter, and I believe it. Remember in mime games there is no speaking, only head-shaking or nodding.

When I started this whole thing I had never intended a competition or a winner but one letter is going to win a prize after all. It comes from Lord Westwood, whose modest entry in *Who's Who* is brief, admitting only rather vaguely to being a director of several public and private companies. Among these is Dunbee Combes Marx, the enormous toy, household and even DIY accessories concern, so he does get some games of indo or snakes and ladders with his grandsons, as befits the chairman. He is also president of the football league and vice-president of the Football Association and he writes: "As a small child, I loathed parties but when I grew up we played a game which was very popular. We had friends in, ate too much, drank a lot and then, at the height of the evening, one person would go out of the room and the others had to guess who he or she was. We seldom guessed correctly."

Lord Westwood, there is a boy on his way to you to help the game along. Happy Christmas everybody.



Magnus Magnusson, who suggested we get a photograph of him from *Radio Times* because it was a good (if flattering) one, sent in a perfect all-round, very skin to *Call My Bluff*. Each player chooses the most abstruse word possible in the Shorter Oxford Dictionary (those lucky enough to have the multi-volume one will be able to make it even more difficult). The words are announced in turn, the announcer writing down the correct meaning. The other players write down their versions of the word's meaning, whether seriously or tongue-in-cheek. Then the whole party votes on which they think is accurate as each protagonist in turn reads out all the versions, including the correct one. You give a point to whoever's version gets the highest number of votes and bonus points go to whoever actually writes down the correct definition, that bonus being

Lord (Lew) Grade
Work is my gameJohn Inman
Sit and chatEstee Lander
Living life againMagnus Magnusson
Words, words, words.

HOME & GA

ELECTRIC

POSTAL

SLEEPING LINE
Doris Barnes
1977

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George Hutchinson

Ignore the Jeremiahs, Britain's reserve will win through

If some of our more militant miners in East Kent, say, or in Lancashire had blown up a railway bridge and burned down a warehouse during a strike, were others, armed with clubs, had wrecked a coal depot, there might be reason to fear the onset of social revolution.

That is certainly how violence of this character would be represented abroad, not least in much of the American press, ever alert to any portents of doom or disorder in Britain. It requires no great exercise of the imagination to conjure up the reports, the lurid broad-

casts.

But while these things have not been happening in the United Kingdom, they have been happening in the United States—in Kentucky, in Illinois. I have yet to see a single prediction of impending national upheaval, however, foretelling the destruction of American society, the overthrow of the constitution. Nor will any such dire developments occur, serious though the recent disturbances have been.

With these thoughts in mind, it may be timely to glance at some aspects of our own condition on this occasion. The more welcome aspects, the pleasing rather than the displease-

In discussing Britain's industrial troubles, and the political strife afflicting the country, many overseas commentators seem unable or disinclined to observe a sense of proportion. They tend to emphasize and exaggerate what is wrong (or what in their opinion is wrong), sometimes to the point of staggering distortion, while playing down, if not altogether ignoring the happier, sounder and more reassuring features of everyday life. They display little or no appreciation of the quality of our institutions, their continuity and

influence for stability—yet

these, each one an enduring element in the larger tableau, are the very things so greatly admired by countless foreign visitors and by millions of others who will never know them at first hand.

Between public and private comment there is often an astonishingly wide gulf. You may put it down to a journalistic taste for sensation, which is probably true the world over: but this is not the only explanation.

To the extent that we are misrepresented, the fault is partly our own. In saying this, I am not thinking only of the relatively small number of extremists, left or right, who create a disproportionate amount of political discord and disharmony and command corresponding attention both at home and abroad.

There is also a tendency of quite another class of person, a class which can itself be divided into two. The genus may be labelled Jeremiah. The species are (i) the melancholic and (ii) the hysterical.

The former is quickly reduced to a state of hand-wringing despondency and depression. He crumbles at the first hint of even a bakers' strike (shall we say?) and is thereafter sunk in gloom, prophesying national disaster to anyone who will listen.

The second is a frenetic of strong authoritarian instincts. Let me use a well-known metaphor to describe both (shall we say?) and he is at once inflamed, inveigling against yet another threat to public order and denouncing every malingerer in the land—for he is nothing if not indiscriminately in abuse.

Although one may mock them lightheartedly, and with extravagance, these are not fanciful figures: they exist, and we all know some of them.

More seriously, their expressed outlook and audible reactions do contribute to misunderstanding of what is usually the broader national response at times of industrial dispute or social dislocation (as for example in the firemen's strike). For we are not all "not"; by and large, we are not panic in the face of every setback; we are not strident, like the hysterics, or stunned into despair, like the melancholics, with their forebodings of doom and disintegration.

Yet we are frequently mistaken for the selfsame kind, and the label is attached to us all, because the doomsayers receive overmuch attention, with their fears and predictions unfailingly relayed abroad and then, as often as not, compounded by ill-informed minds ever receptive to bad news.

In all this, I intend no complacency, but am simply saying that we cannot afford to be regarded as the doomsayers and become defeatist. Moreover, we would be lacking in pride and self-respect (foot to mention interlengue) if instead of acknowledging, upholding and proclaiming what is good in British society we preferred to dwell on the imperfections.

Of course we should right what is wrong, and have a duty to do so. But we should also remind ourselves, and the rest of the world, that this country enjoys standards of personal liberty, equality, security and individual convenience, allied to a sense of justice, and to the fight against injustice or poverty, and for the redress of injustice, along with many another amenity that others still aspire to.

We are in general a tolerant community, much given to charitable causes. Collectively, we incline no reason rather than dogma. All in all, we remain pretty stable within an unsettled universe; and this is not really surprising, con-

idering our history as a parliamentary democracy and the antiquity of our established institutions.

Whatever our faults (and they are, apparently), they will not be cured or rectified by self-denigration, but rather by reasoned self-criticism.

If there has been a

recognition of the breakdown

in some other Western countries.

If there has been a

lowering in educational values,

it is one that can still be

corrected, albeit at some

expense of effort under a

different government. If the

quality of public life has been

undermined in recent years,

this too is a failure that can

be remedied—and is already, I

think, being overcome, partly

by reason of the rearmament of

leaders, greater and small,

national and local.

Do I seem over-optimistic,

wildly ingenuous? I hope not.

I see no reason why we should

surrender to fear, and with fear

to lethargy and inertia and the

dismally acceptance of imminent

ruin.

We still possess vast national

assets, reserves and resources,

both moral and material,

assets of unexampled quality

in industry and commerce, in

scientific research, in the

universities, in all our many

and distinguished learned

societies. Our political institu-

tions are the admiration of half

the world—and more. Properly

used—and properly depicted—

these are assets that can hardly

fail us.

With that reflection, I wish

my readers a happy and hope-

ful Christmas.

© Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977.

An orgy of eating in France, with caviar at £14 an ounce

Oysters, pâté, truffles and champagne top the list for the Christmas spree

Paris
The French, not surprisingly, have a word for it—dégustation—a fine lip-smacking word only to be pronounced with the sibilant ringing and which makes its English counterpart sound insipid and quite tasteless by comparison.

The French need such a word for it is word for all seasons, as are prepared as a nation to spend at least a third of their income on eating and drinking, so tasting is very important all year round.

But if it is word for all seasons, it really comes into its own at Christmas for it is the one occasion in the year when even the most fastidious gourmet turns gourmand in an orgy of eating that would make the most hearty British trencherman turn green.

Most French wage earners receive at least a thirteen month's salary in December and to judge from the queues in the food shops most French housewives are intent on spending one third of two months' pay over the holiday season. Luxury goods are a prime target.

It is, for example, an extravagant danger of a year for French oysters.

Between now and the new year some 150,000 tonnes of them—two thirds of the annual amount harvested in France—will be sprinkled with lemon juice and swallowed down. They are at their plumpest and most succulent at this time of year and the French fishmongers have over the years succeeded in persuading their customers that no Christmas season is complete without them.

Raw oysters of the high level of pollution have not deterred the trade. Now given new grades ranging from TG (tres grosse) through G (grosse) and M (moyenne) to P (petite) they can be found in the wooden bushel in shops

in every area or outside restaurants where red faced, blue-hatted sailor types keep themselves warm by the exertion of opening oysters for the customers within.

Although some of the smaller oysters are very reasonable at eight francs (95p), a dozen of some of the more choice and larger ones are selling well in restaurants at prices of up to one pound each.

If a pound seems a lot for one slippery mouthful, it seems positively cheap compared with the priciest of the best Beluga caviar which is being sold at 2,000 francs a kilo—something like 14.40 an ounce.

This record price in France has been caused by the imposition of a 33 per cent tax on sturgeon's eggs, but it has apparently not deterred the customers. For those unable to afford those prices, however, caviar of lower quality is available in many supermarkets at 1,000 francs a kilo.

For those who prefer a meaty starter—and something cheaper again, there is always pâté de foie gras. For the gourmets, pâté produced article by article with what you need only pay 500 francs a kilo—£3.60 an ounce—while again half-prize versions can be found in supermarkets everywhere.

Nowadays some 65 per cent of the foie gras on sale in France is imported either from

widow, each carrying its own price tag.

When it comes to the traditional dessert the French scorn plum pudding and prefer a rich pastry yule log, a confection of creamy butter and sugar and flour that melts luxuriously in the mouth. The bûche de noël are a little smaller this year as a result of the recent measures taken by the Prime Minister, M Barre, to freeze prices in pastry shops. To buy one big enough for a family party of eight would cost anything up to £16, although cheaper varieties at least half the price are of course available in supermarkets.

Champagne is traditionally the drink to wash down the meal and this year sales are up in France by 11 per cent even though the price has gone up 12 per cent. France may have exported 56.6 million bottles of champagne last year, but twice as many bottles were sold, and presumably drunk, in France itself.

Negotiations are going on to try to produce an official grading but the last meeting on the subject in October put off a decision on a label until late next year. It is however possible to tell the real free range turkey by its label. The really good ones, reared in the pâtes-de-Cailly over the past nine months on natural foods, allowed to grow by day under the watchful eyes of trained turkey dogs, and lastly fed a mixture of grain and insects fed the farmer, come with a red label of quality. These aristocrats cost around £15.50 a pound. Cheap, frozen, battery reared proletarian turkeys sell for as little as 50p a pound.

For any housewife wanting fresh truffles as a garnish there are no problems provided she can afford to pay around £8 a pound for them. Most delicatessen shops sell them individually, displaying the ugly black little fungi in pride of place in the centre of their

Being Tommy Steele has never been easy—simply because it has always been too easy. And if that seems a contradiction, then it is just part of the make-up of one of the most interesting theatrical phenomena of our age. A pop singer who, 20 years ago, gave it all in his performances on top so that he could become a "real" entertainer.

A lad who had never been in a "real" theatre asked to play in Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*. A musical comedy star directing his first show in the biggest playhouse in the land.

Other performers have been known to get cocky when they are top in their field. Somehow, Tommy Steele, still with the broad smile, still with the Cockney accent and still—until it was closed a couple of months back—enjoying the minimum wage of £200 a month, somewhat less than the cost of a kilo of caviar. Nor can pensioners, who now receive £105 a month afford much foie gras.

That is why, presumably, eating extremes have seen fit to draw attention to the poverty among the plenty by blowing up Fauchon's—the high temple of gastronomic luxury in France—in the week before Christmas.

Ian Murray

Now he is not simply starring in *Hans Andersen* at the London Palladium, he is directing it, too. Ceding the musical cast for a last-minute pop talk five minutes before the start of the matinee and enjoying every moment of the "magomaniac" he admits, rule gives him.

An amazingly articulate 41-year-old, this man Steele—considering that he missed many of his school years because he spent so much time in hospital—used to bring his mother to see him every day for tea and that old Christmas clerics are as good as a clock, they come in so regularly.

Christmas clerics seem only to be a local name which I once discussed with old Bert who had lived his 80 years at the school by his headmaster.

There's more of 'em than ever since Bognor pier was broken on March 5, 1963, on an exceptionally rough night. The gap has widened since and the severed head is now a gaunt tangle of metal struts and rails, decorated every winter by hundreds of perched cormorants.

They use it as a coastal headquarters, for West Sussex has no cliffs, and stand in curious attitudes, looking like thin wine-bottles or small, hunched sea-duck. Some lean precariously to one side, or forwards, like Spy's portrayals of ardent persons in the pulpit.

People on the coast call them the Isle of Wight Parsons, for the rocks on the island used to be their nearest major roost but now most of the West Sussex birds seem to spend their entire time fishing from the pier.

There is, though, a contingent of anything up to 60 or more that takes off each afternoon to fly along the coast until they reach the mouth of the River Arun at Littlehampton. There, they have a different name, for shoppers look up and say: "There go the old black bishops' geese."

I remembered then that even Isaac Walton had extolled the virtues of Amerley trout and that crayfish, mussels, sea and stuffed heron and cygnet frequently featured on the lists of food for festive times in the old days.

I asked him whether he minded if I pre-

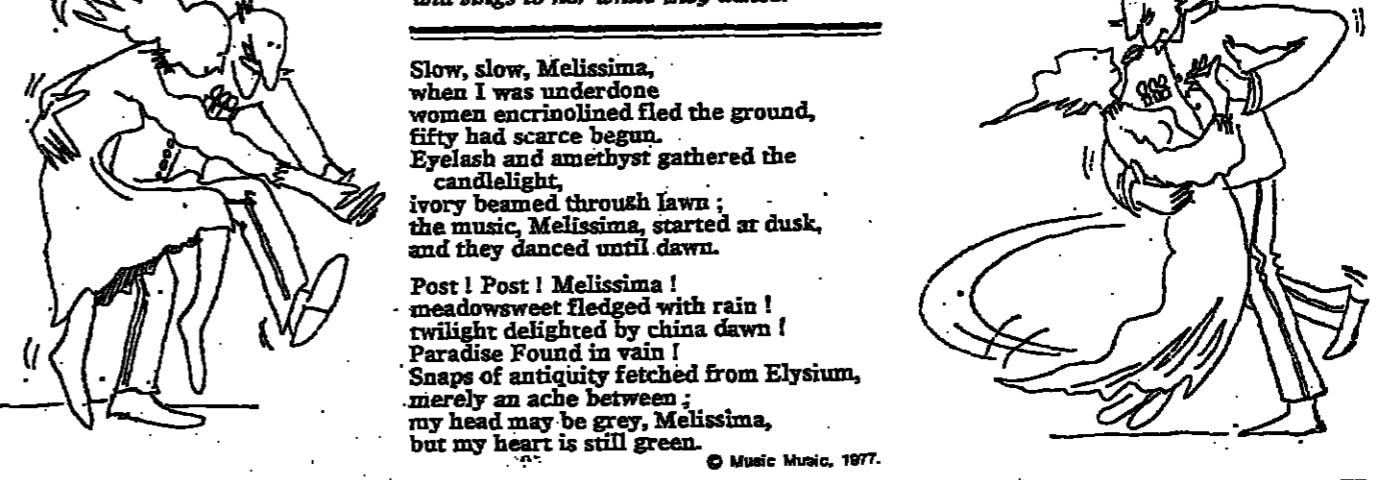
ferred him to the old name, he said, "Well, if you're going to do that, why

The Melissima Waltz

Words: Christopher Logue Music: Stanley Myers



Greatly to the consternation of his guests
Field-Marshal "Pumpkin" Hardy (93)
takes Melissima Jones (16) by the waist
and sings to her while they dance:



Slow, slow, Melissima,
when I was undressed
women encircled fled the ground,
Gifty had scarce begun
Eyelash and amethyst gathered the
candlelight,
ivory beamed through lawn,
the music, Melissima, started at dusk,
and they danced until dawn.

Post! Post! Melissima!
meadowlark fledged with rain!
twilight delighted by china dawn!
Paradise Found in vain!
Snaps of antiquity fetched from Elysium,
merely an ache between;
my head may be grey, Melissima,
but my heart is still green.

© Music Music, 1977.

The Cockney kid with the Midas touch



"Because it's all over. Now I've

opened, wild horses wouldn't get

me off the stage performing in

this show. With all the modesty,

it's a very exciting show. I like

watching all the other performances."

But he says he will aim

at something simpler next time.

"After doing this epic in one

piece, I'd like to do a nice



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THE COCKPIT OF THE WORLD

Only a few months ago the peace and, conceivably, the survival of all our nations seemed almost without hope. Although negotiations about negotiations continued to take place, little progress was made and the requirements of the two sides seemed to be totally irreconcilable. Tomorrow Mr Begin and President Sadat will be meeting in Cairo for serious direct talks to try to make progress towards a general settlement. Of course it is right to retain one's sense of caution about the prospects of peace. Such a negotiation, in which vital interests are at stake on both sides, cannot be easy and the suspicions of thirty years of warfare cannot readily be extinguished. Nevertheless the change is one of the most remarkable in modern history. Only a very little time ago such an event would have seemed impossible.

Both the contestants involved deserve the highest degree of credit. President Sadat has shown himself to combine imagination and courage. If he achieves a peace settlement he will have done the greatest possible service to the Arab people, to the people of Israel and to the whole world. By his act of reconciliation he has become a major world statesman, generally known and generally admired.

The Middle East in recent years has been the most dangerous of the world's arenas of conflict. Just as Belgium was called the cockpit of Europe because of its strategic position between France and Germany, so the Middle East is the cockpit of the world because of its strategic significance and its overwhelming economic significance to both the super powers and to their allies. The war between Israel and her Arab neighbours has been a continuous peril in the most dangerous area of the world. It has to be remembered that the oil resources of the Middle East are one of the very few interests which might be held by either super-power to justify the use of nuclear weapons.

President Sadat's initiative is not therefore only concerned with a national conflict for Egypt or with the broader conflict between the Arabs and Jews. Its success or failure could determine the whole issue of world

King Hussein. It is not equally essential but it is highly desirable that in the end it should carry Syria as well. President Assad is himself a serious Arab statesman whose position must not be forgotten.

In this progress towards settlement the outside world has played a significant though secondary part; it is Israel and the Arabs who have to make peace, not the United States and the Soviet Union. President Carter's diplomacy has been very valuable. With much less power, Mr Callaghan's diplomacy has been valuable as well and in Britain we can be well satisfied that our Prime Minister has been regarded with equal confidence by both the principals. The Soviet Union has played a much less helpful role as though they could never be quite sure where their true interest lay.

Everyone in Israel and everyone in Egypt should, I understand, that the great mass of world opinion feels that our fate is linked with theirs. There is a willing forward of the cause of peace which is spontaneous, and in Britain almost universal. This is not only true of those who are of the Christian religion, but it is true that prayers for peace in the Middle East will be said by almost everyone in this country who attends a Christmas service in 1977.

The hope is not only for peace but for what can be built on the foundations of peace. The war has impoverished all the countries that have taken part in it, and has led to most acute suffering for the Arab people of Palestine, suffering which can only be relieved through peace, not through war. War has meant privation for the people of Israel and much continued and acute poverty for the people of Egypt. Money which should have gone on development has had to be spent on arms. At the same time the Arab world has been cut off from the skills which Israel possesses, that could have played a great part in promoting the general prosperity of the area. If peace can first be achieved, then the aim should be to use peace to relieve the suffering which still distinguishes the lives of so many people in the Middle East.

These fears and objections will never be entirely overcome. We are not going to see the Iraqis or the Libyans or the terrorist fringe of the PLO satisfied by any outcome. What is essential is that the settlement, or the momentum towards settlement, should carry the moderate Arab powers; that it should carry the Saudi Arabians and

the most difficult phase of the Belgrade conference still lies ahead. It has now adjourned after more than eleven weeks spent debating the Helsinki agreement of 1975 on security and cooperation in Europe. Its tasks are to review implementation so far and to agree on new proposals for furthering implementation in the future. Neither task is easy. The Soviet Union does not want a final document which points a finger at deficiencies in implementing the provisions on human rights. Nor does it want new proposals which give it even more trouble than the original Helsinki document. It would probably like a minimal document saying that all thirty-five signatories met, found d閧鑾e in good shape, and pledged themselves to furthering peace and goodwill. This the West cannot accept. There must be either a reasonable level of truth and substance in the document or a mere registration of the event, which would amount to an admission of failure.

At the moment everything is still open. The Russians have conceded a procedural point so that there will be no bar to continuing to raise points on implementation in the plenary sessions after Christmas. They also conceded a point during the procedural negotiations in the summer so that the whole conference could if necessary carry on beyond the target date in mid-February. Thus all participants now face fairly basic political decisions on how much to press for and how much to settle for.

There is no doubt that the Helsinki agreement has been valuable. It has established standards in East-West relations which have encouraged indi-

Licensing photocopying

From Professor B. Z. Beinart, and others
Sir, Teachers and researchers in universities and elsewhere will suffer additional expense and inconvenience if the recommendations of the Whitford Report on Copyright Law in its chapter on "reprography" (ie, photocopying) are adopted.

The Report recommends abolition of the existing right to make single photocopies (under Section 7 of the 1965 Copyright Act) and even the right to make a photocopy oneself (under Section 6) for research or private study. The Whitford Committee is aware that similar rights exist in European countries and are preserved in the Copyright Act coming into force in the USA in 1978. Nevertheless it recommends abrogation of such rights in the UK in order to impose a blanket licensing system covering all user requirements for facsimile copies of copyright material whether made in libraries or elsewhere.

Clearly the "annual fee" this licensing system would exact will be passed on to customers. Owners of photocopies, whether in libraries or private offices, would "inevitably" have to make "some

sort of return of usage". The cost of collecting such statistics would be considerable, and would "inevitably" also be passed on to customers.

The Whitford recommendations are supported by arguments sometimes fallacious and often ill founded. For example, paragraph 283 grants there is no need to license a research worker to copy by hand part or even the whole of a work in a library, but if, to avoid the labour, he is content to pay for a photocopy, we think the price paid ought in fairness to include... also a royalty element for the copyright owner". Clearly the interests of authors and publishers remain the same, whether a copy is taken by hand or by photocopy. The special debt in photocopying, to manufacturers and owners of the machines, is already paid by purchasers of photocopying.

Among unfounded assertions is the claim that "library copying is seriously affecting subscriptions to learned journals and other specialized periodicals to the extent that such publications are no longer viable". No supporting evidence is known to the undersigned, who are senior members of this university, and from all faculties. Contributors to learned and specialized journals,

The fall in public spending

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Many of your readers must have been surprised by your front page story on December 19 that there was a serious concern in the most senior levels within the Treasury over the operation of our pension system. Mr Levin should

realize that it is logically impossible to remove it. If it were removed all punishment would be rendered unjust. What could be more immoral than to inflict imprisonment on a criminal for the sake of deterring others if he does not deserve it? Or would it be

just to subject him to a compulsory attempt at reform which includes a denial of liberty unless,

he deserves it? If he does deserve it, the claims of retribution are admitted.

Secondly, Mr Levin himself makes clear that repentence, by itself, is not sufficient to justify the freedom of these particular prisoners. "The origins of (the Moors Murderers') impulses are buried deep in the human psyche... (they) are incapable of weighing the consequences of their actions and are liable to be released back into the community.

The Treasury have already been congratulating themselves on the fact that the borrowing requirement has been considerably less than anticipated. Surely they should be equally pleased if public expenditure falls short of the minimum targets which were once judged politically acceptable.

Yours faithfully,

JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eason Square, SW1

The Unification Church

From Dr Robert P. Carroll

Sir, Mr Dennis Orme, in his reply to Dame Barbara's article on the Unification Church, fails to note her various concerns: "21 criminal errors, 43 errors of distortion and 18 cases of malicious distortion" producing "a ratio of bias of one dishonesty per 2.7 sentences" (The Times, December 22). A magisterial flourish of the typewriter and error is denounced. Just like that!

But at no point in the subsequent lengthy letter does he cite one example of such error and distortion or provide any rebuttal of even one of the 72 twelve sentences. Surely *The Times* would have printed truth, even if only in its "Letters to the Editor" page! If we are treated to a series of Biblical quotations and bizarre citations from the Koran which only seem to function as a smoke-screen for his failure to refute the errors of the original observations. Thus his letter is virtually ad association and no argument. Not an impressive account of truth as it is valued by the Unification Church, though it may well be a better statement of what the church believes. It is also free of a recommendation of the Sun Myung Moon cult.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT P. CARROLL,
3 Sompark Terrace,
Glasgow.

December 21.

From Miss Alenka Edmondson

Sir, I would suggest to Mr Bernard Levin that the answer to his thoughts on crime and punishment, and the reform of Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, lies in his own words in paragraph three of his article (December 21). The origins of such evil impulses, he says, are buried deep in the human psyche.

On the question of fairness, it is presumably the desire of every Christian that she be granted God's grace to forgive, from his heart, Myra Hindley and Ian Brady for what they have done. It does not necessarily follow that they should therefore be released from prison.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. ROFF,
Longton Vicarage,
Preston,
Lancashire.

December 21.

From Mr Julian Amery

Sir, Bernard Levin (December 21)

requests that a member of a church should be given the guarantee that, once free, he will not fall victim to dangerous impulses again, threatening their own selves or the pain of their victims?

It is not revenge, Mr Levin, the majority of us needs. It is protection. Come to think of it, we could perhaps do with the founder of the religion mentioned; he was also very good at casting out devils.

Yours,

ALENKA EDMONDSON,
Ewenny Isaf,
Bridgend,
Mid Glamorgan.

December 21.

From Mr I. L. Davies

Sir, Mr Bernard Levin is quite

wrong to imply that all those who object to the release of the Moors murderers do so out of an unsatisfied desire for revenge.

Nobody, who has observed our

pension system in action, can fail to agree that the process by which parole is granted is far from being an exact science and many may make an mistake in the choice of those suitable to be released back into the community.

The fact is that their pay in real terms has fallen by 50 per cent over the last five years. For the British Steel Corporation, taking 1972 as the base year, the net salary in real terms of the Chairman was then £12,735. It is now £5,356. The Managing Director of Cable and Wireless—a highly successful state company with worldwide ramifications—Archie Willer, received a net salary of £5,906 in 1972, now worth £3,628 in real terms. Mr Willer resigned in February as a protest against Government policy. He might well not have left had the Boyle proposals of a gross salary of £22,000 been implemented; he would just about have kept pace with inflation.

First (and present) Socialist government have "willed" an us a considerable number of nationalized industries. We have to attempt to make them successful, and obviously to succeed they must have the highest calibre of British management. Below board level they are unfeared in what they can pay. So, why not at board level too? The old National Board of Prices and Incomes recommended that salaries should be left to individual boards.

Admittedly, the Government is a "shareholder", but shareholders in the private sector do not decide the directors' salaries, so why should the directors do so with state boards?

Private enterprise set their own

board room salaries and the nationalized industries should have the freedom to do the same. Then, a well run and profitable nationalized industry, such as Cable and Wireless, could pay the rate for the job. The British Steel Corporation, with its staggering losses and daunting problems, needs dynamic and determined leadership at the top. Sadie, never was the old maxim "You get what you pay for" more applicable.

An amending Bill to remove ministerial control over nationalized industry board salaries would not only save politicians from embarrassing decisions, but would contribute to the better management of these industries.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL GRYLLS,
House of Commons.

December 22.

From Mr Gabriel Roth

Sir, Christopher Walker's article on Northern Ireland (November 29, page 14) reports that shared taxis in Belfast plying from fixed points provide service at 10p and 15p, while buses, which travel less frequently, charge 13p and 26p for equivalent journeys.

It may be conveniently assumed that these taxis, unlike bus services in most European cities, run at a profit, as do the jeepneys of Manila, the Dolmush of Istanbul and many other "informal" public transport services.

Mr Walker comments that "the authorities have come to recognize, however reluctantly, that... are here to stay". May a transport economist ask why Londoners and others in the UK are denied the advantages of such low fare, shared taxi services that provide frequent and speedy connections at no cost to public funds?

Yours faithfully,

G. J. ROTH,
451 Falcon Avenue,
Chevy Chase,
Maryland 20815,
USA.

December 13.

From Mr Owen F. Parsons

Sir, Further to Mr Arthur Grimwood's letter in your issue of December 21, may I add to his list the Spanish pair of Birkbeck flutes of 1592 belonging to St Peter's Church, Rendcomb, Gloucestershire, now on loan to the new Diocesan Treasury in Gloucester Cathedral.

They are slightly smaller than the Cirencester ones, but are very similar and of equal quality, and as one of the Cirencester flutes has also been lent to us, it now stands alongside the Rendcomb pair for comparison.

Yours faithfully,

OWEN F. PARSONS,
Honorary Curator,

The Dean and Chapter of

Gloucester Treasury Office,
18 College Green,
Gloucester, Gloucestershire,
Gloucester Cathedral.

December 21.

From The Inverness capo

From Dom Edmund Power, OSB

Sir, Mr Peter Such (December 15)

asks about the distribution of the Inverness capo. For some years now the Berkshire lanes have provided a setting for one fine specimen. It has been handed down through

three generations of monks of Douai Abbey. The present wearer cuts a

comfortable if eccentric figure on cool Sunday afternoon walks.

Yours faithfully,

EDMUND POWER, OSB.

Douai Abbey,
Upper Woolhampton,
Reading.

Yours truly,

ERIC JAMES,
Canon Missioner of St Albans,

43 Holywell Hill,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire,
December 23.

From the same school

From Canon Eric James

Sir, Dudley Moore and I both went

to Dagenham County High School—

near the Cosey Rooms. Neither of us

have become bishops. Is this a record?

Yours truly,

ERIC JAMES,
Canon Missioner of St Albans,

43 Holywell Hill,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire,
December 23.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Future of the Moors murderers

From the Reverend A. M. Roff

Sir, Bernard Levin (December 21)

requests that a member of a church should be given the guarantee that, once free, he will not fall victim to dangerous impulses again, threatening their own selves or the pain of their victims?

It is not revenge, Mr Levin, the majority of us needs. It is protection. Come to think of it, we could perhaps do with the founder of the religion mentioned; he was also very good at casting out devils.

Yours,

ALENKA EDMONDSON,
Ewenny Isaf,
Bridgend,
Mid Glamorgan.

December 21.

From Mr I. L. Davies

Sir, Mr Bernard Levin is quite

SOCIAL NEWS

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra, the birthday of Christmas Day. A memorial service for Major-General Sir James Bowers-Lyon will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at noon on Wednesday, January 11.

Mr Graham Matthews wishes his friends, particularly those in Winchester and Sheffield, a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Birthdays today

Sir Denis Allen, 67; Mr Colig Cowdry, 45; Brigadier Dame Barbara Cozens, 71; Sir John Denholm, 70; Sir E. Farnborough, 69; Sir Stamford Foster-Sutton, QC, 79; Dame Katherina Kelleher, 62; Lord Llewelyn Davies, 65; Sir Michael Rowe, QC, 76; Sir Kenneth Thompson, 68.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Lord Arman, 61; Captain Sir Noel Arkell, 84; Sir Noel Bowater, 85; Sir John Corah, 93; Mr Andrew Cruckshank, 70; Lord Eversley, 65; Lord Grade, 71; Viscount Hardinge, 72; Major-General Sir Noel Holmes, 86; Sir Charles Mort-Radcliffe, 66; Sir Geoffrey Orgue, 69; Mr Justice Thesiger, 75.

BOXING DAY: Viscount Anson, 78; Sir Charles Clare, 73; Sir Eric de Normann, 84; Sir Ronald Holmes, 64; Mr T. K. Lyle, 74; Sir Mark Tennant, 66.

TUESDAY: Mr G. C. Brunton, 56; Miss Marlene Dietrich, 73; Sir Noel Hurton, QC, 70; Sir Philip Liptrot, 71; Dr J. N. L. Myres, 75; Sir Anthony Pilkington, 72; Sir Norman Reid, 62; Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, 73.

Today's engagements

Blissfully, the Queen with carol-Saint Paul's Cathedral, 4; Westminster Abbey, 3; A Dickens Christmas walk, meet Towner Hill station, 2; London Experience: 50-minute show of London past and present, Coventry Street, 10-4; Exhibition: St. James's Palace, 10-7.

Boxing Day Westminster Abbey, festive evening carols and procession, 3; Walks on the footings of Sherlock Holmes, meet Baker Street station, 2; a journey through Dickens's London, meet Embankment station, 2; Festive Hall, London, Festival Ballet, the Nutcracker, 3 and 7-30.

Barrow Poets' Christmas Show: Poems and music for children, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 3-15; Festival Hall, 7-5.

Christmas car races, Brands Hatch, 12-30.

Wigmore Hall, Christmas soiree of Victorian music, 7-30.

Walks: A London village, Cheltenham, St. James Square station, 2; 1880s East End murders, Jack the Ripper, meet Tower Hill station, 2.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Lyttelton Theatre, National Theatre, South Bank, 11 and 12-30.

Christmas music at the crib, Cunningham Singers, St. Paul's Cathedral, 6.

Memorial service

Mr D. R. Matthews. A memorial service for Mr Donald R. Matthews was held at St Margaret's Church, Louthbury, on December 21. The Rev. H. J. Smith officiated. Mr A. W. Howitt read the lesson. Mr A. J. Agapayeff gave an address. Among those present were: Mrs Matthews (widow), Mrs K. Matthews (widow), Mr and Mrs Matthews' daughter, Mr and Mrs A. Frost (brother-in-law and stepson), Miss Matthews (stepdaughter), Mr and Mrs T. Abbott, Mr R. Lupton, Mr R. St. John, Mr R. Speer, Mr and Mrs A. Sweetman, Mr R. Cooke, Mr G. White, Mr and Mrs J. Organisation, Mr J. B. Smith (late), Mr J. A. Cunningham, Mr J. C. Cunningham, Woolwich Building Society, with partners and staff, and Mr. and Mrs. Post, Marwell, Michel and Co.

Christening The infant son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Peter Gibbs was christened Evan Rupert Michael by the Rev Robin Ray, at St Nicholas's Church, Cheltenham, on Friday December 22. The godparents were Mr Michael Colvin, the Hon. Thomas Clifford, the Hon. Mrs Malcolm Davidson and Miss Camilla Gibbs.

Arts Council's grant The Arts Council's grant in aid for 1976-78 will not be known before the end of the year. A forecast of what it would be made earlier this month by Mr Kenneth Robinson, the council's chairman. The present grant is £42m.

Christmas meals gift Help the Aged is to provide Christmas meals for 300,000 destitute aged people in 600 centres in the poorest areas of the world.

Law Report December 23 1977

Continuing liability of original lessees

Wainford Investments Ltd v Duckworth and Others Before Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor [Judgment delivered Dec 21]

The original lessor under a lease remains liable to the lessor for the term which falls due even after the term has been assigned to a company and the liquidator of the company has disclaimed the lease.

His Lordship, giving a reserved judgment, said that the plaintiff lessor, Wainford Investments Ltd, were entitled to the unpaid rent claimed by them against the original lessees, Mr Anthony John Stanhope Duckworth, Mr Phillip Charles Curtis, Mr John Hanbury Pavis, and Mr James Dundas Hamilton, under a lease dated October 8, 1971, for a term of 20 years from September 29, 1971, of certain first floor rooms at Wainford Court, Throgmorton Street, London.

Mr Martin Buckley for Wainford; Mr David Oliver for the original lessees.

The VICE-CHANCELLOR said that the facts were simple and undisputed but the same could not be said of the law, for his Lordship had to decide at a point which had been unresolved for over 25 years.

Wainford granted a lease of business premises to the original lessees. With Wainford's consent, the original lessees later assigned the lease to a company. The company went into a creditors' voluntary liquidation; and, of course, the liquidator disclaimed the lease. Wainford claimed the original lessees for rent failing due after the date of the disclaimer.

Were the original lessees liable? Had the assignee been an individual who had become bankrupt, the same point would have arisen in relation to the disclaimer of the lessee. What was at issue, however, was the question of whether the original lessee remained liable under a lease.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. L. Scott and Miss H. L. G. Oppenheimer. The engagement is announced between Adam, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Austin Scott, of 44 Edinburgh Drive, Dunlop, and Henrietta, stepdaughter of Sir Michael and Lady Oppenheimer, of L'Aiglon, Grouville, Jersey.

Mr N. C. King and Miss M. M. G. Oppenheimer. The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs Joseph King, of White Lodge, Horning, Norfolk, and Marilda, second daughter of Sir Michael and Lady Oppenheimer, of L'Aiglon, Grouville, Jersey.

Mr M. E. Brown and Miss K. V. Jennings. The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Jennings, of Ham, and Cheryl, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Battersby, of Battersby, near Buxton, Derbyshire.

Mr J. P. Coombes and Miss A. M. Gar. The engagement is announced between Philip, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. C. Coombes, of New Barnet, Hertfordshire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. R. Coombes, of New Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Lieutenant R. Sampson, RN and Miss L. Curwen, QARNNS. The engagement is announced between Roger, only son of the late Mr Douglas Henry Sampson and of Mrs Joyce Sampson, and Karen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Curwen, of Deanery Gate, The Precinct, Rochester, Kent.

Mr J. P. Coombes and Miss M. J. Coombes. The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs R. C. Hunter, of Whetstone, London, and Isabel, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C. R. Coombes, of New Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Mr and Mrs T. K. Lyle and Miss M. J. Coombes. The engagement is announced between Philip, eldest son of Mr and Mrs C. R. Coombes, of New Barnet, Hertfordshire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Jennings, of Buxton, Derbyshire.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

UK yards facing fresh industrial unrest on Polish shipbuilding deal

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent
Britain's controversial £15m shipbuilding deal with Poland faces more difficulties after industrial action taken yesterday by middle managers.

Members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Industries Management Association employed at Smith's Dock on Teeside yesterday withdrew their cooperation in the construction of two bulk carriers transferred earlier from the Swedish company.

The 57 members of SAIMA at Smith's Dock banned overtime and withdrew previous guarantees of cooperation and said the reason for their action was that British Shipbuilders, the state corporation, has refused to recognize the association.

The Teesside managers' action was supported by the SAIMA executive and branches in other parts of the country are expected to take similar action when they return to work after the Christmas holiday.

Earlier this week the board of British Shipbuilders consid-

Heron stake in Henlys sold to bank for £4.2m

By Nicholas Hirst

Heron Motor group shareholders received a Christmas bonus from the Bank of Scotland yesterday, who bought Heron's stake in Henlys, the motor distributor, for £4.2m.

The net book cost of the shares to Heron, which took its stake just over a year ago, was £1.9m, giving a profit after expenses of nearly £2.3m to Heron Corporation and adding to its existing good liquid position.

Bank of Scotland has bought the shares through its finance house subsidiary, Northwest Securities, which has been expanding its business under the "In-bank" heading recently with extensive advertising and a push into general personal credit facilities.

Northwest Securities already has a stake of 25 per cent in Brad Group, a Lancashire-based motor distributor, and provides vehicle financing for Heron Group. The taking of the stake from Heron removes a potential predator from Henlys, which could have threatened Northwest Securities.

President Carter told his home town of Plains, Georgia, that he remained determined to balance the Budget by 1981. He admitted that the task would be difficult in view of the prospect of large deficits this year and next year and in view of his plans to propose \$25,000m (£13,888m) in cuts.

Last night a spokesman for British Shipbuilders said there could be no comment on the Teesside action until the position had been clarified.

Talks on Bank fringe benefits 'put in hand'

By Our Economics Staff

The Government yesterday rejected effectively MP's criticisms of fringe benefits for Bank of England staff, while at the same time seeming to suggest that action is under way to deal with the criticisms.

Talks between the Bank of England and its staff have "been put in hand" over suggestions that Bank staff should pay more for some of their fringe benefits, according to a Treasury reply.

However, the Court of Directors will go on taking account of the need to compete with other financial institutions.

The fringe benefits offered by the Bank are very generous and were criticized by the Commons Select Committee on Nationalized Industries in December last year.

The Bank's model of the economy is smaller and simpler than that of the Treasury. The committee had expressed doubts whether it was worth having a separate section in the Bank modelling the economy.

The Commons committee accepted the case for providing many of the benefits for the Bank staff, but felt that the charges should be raised to be more in line with those which the ordinary public have to

bear.

News that talks are in hand over a renegotiation came yesterday in a government reply.

The reply does not specifically state whether the talks have already begun. No response was available yesterday afternoon from the Bank on this point, nor on what changes are being sought.

From the Government's statement it would seem that housing and educational loans might be affected. Some talks are thought to have taken place with no significant result.

In its reply to the committee, the Government also defended the Bank's economic modelling activities, which it says "contribute no more to resources than using the Treasury model".

The Bank's model of the economy is smaller and simpler than that of the Treasury. The committee had expressed doubts whether it was worth having a separate section in the Bank modelling the economy.

The Government also says that attention will be paid in future to the adequacy of the Bank's capital in deciding how much is handed over to the Treasury.

Impala puts up platinum by \$18

In brief

Impala Platinum, the world's second largest platinum producer, has increased its producer price from \$162 (£90) an ounce to \$180 an ounce.

The size of the increase means that Impala has leapfrogged Rustenburg Platinum, the largest producer, which last month increased its own price from \$162 to \$175 an ounce.

The Impala increase takes its producer price to just above the free market level, and more than restores the cut made a little over a year when the price was reduced from \$170 an ounce.

Sir Albert Robinson, chairman of Rustenburg, said earlier this month that it was unlikely that there would be any significant increase in platinum demand in the present financial year.

Mexico suspends offer to sell America gas

Señor José López Portillo, President of Mexico, has suspended an offer to sell natural gas to America because the government refused to pay Mexico's asking price, \$1 higher per 1,000 cubic feet than United States domestic gas prices.

Mexico will not renew a memorandum of intention to

increase its offer to sell America gas

to America because the government refused to pay Mexico's asking price, \$1 higher per 1,000 cubic feet than United States domestic gas prices.

A final selection will be made

How the markets moved

Rises

	2p to 191p	Land Secs	3p to 218p
Beaumont Prop	4p to 94p	Marylebone	2p to 75p
G Dew	13p to 168p	Morris & Blaize	2p to 46p
FC Finance	5p to 76p	Northern Foods	2p to 118p
Heads	5p to 13p	Metra Box	8p to 200p
Highland	5p to 81p	Sherriff	5p to 200p
Hunting Assoc	2p to 229p	Schulz Ind	5p to 162p
In Paint	3p to 60p	Stock Conv	6p to 256p
Ladbrooke	10p to 207p	Transfarmer House	6p to 156p
		Woolworth	1p to 641p

	Gold gained \$2.25 an ounce to \$162.125.	Philips Lamps	12p to 862p
Gill-edged securities held firm.		Swiss Pacific	3p to 88p
Gold premium 92.5 per cent (effective rate 37.7 per cent).		Tricentrol	1p to 178p
Sterling gained 80pts to 11.8630. The effective exchange rate was 54.1.		Union Disc	10p to 460p

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Reports page 17

On other pages

Bank Base Rates Table

17

Annual Statement: Welco Holdings

15

Unit Trust: M. & G.

17

Falls

Brion

Pegler-Hall

Prudential

Westcar

£1.25.

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Reports page 17

Slump hits Mitsui

Mitsui Mining and Smelting Company of Japan, says it plans to suspend operations at its Kamioya zinc mines and zinc smelter for a few weeks in February, because of a persistent slump in demand and depressed prices.

Mitsui said the mines in central Japan, which deposited zinc at 42 million tonnes, and produce ore at an annual rate of 86,000 tonnes in terms of zinc content.

Rates for small denominations bank notes have been increased by 10 per cent.

Swiss International Ltd, a Swiss bank, has increased its travellers' cheques and other foreign currency balances.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Out like a lamb before the holiday

Previously, business was at a minimum before the stock market went home for Christmas.

But business news on the industrial front from the season, the butcher and the bakery workers' seat dealers home in good time and the FT Industrial 211-better at 453.7 leaving it 11.8 up over the week.

Whereas the industrial leaders edged ahead by a few pence while elsewhere most movements were inspired by favourable or adverse communiques.

Interest in the pile-edged market centred on the new £6.5m "cap" which managed to finish with an eighth premium after an early small discount on the 15 per cent price.

Shorter dates were one-eighth or so harder where changed.

In spite of the lack of business shares have shown a good deal of firmness this week and dealers were saying yesterday that the market now looks in better shape to start a stronger trend in the New Year.

Formminster on way to record year

£7m offer for G Dew as mystery bidder emerges as Dutch group

By Alison Mitchell

Formminster, one of the main suppliers of Indian outerwear to London and Major Stores, was one of the biggest names in a quiet stock market yesterday. On news of a near-quarter rise in first half profits the shares put on 5p to 120p. This followed a strong rise in front of the figures earlier in the week.

And chairman Mr T. C. Reiter is confident that the encouraging upward trend in trading, evident in the first half, should give the group a boost at the year end. Profits then are expected to beat the £1.5m last time.

In the six months to October 31, 1976, which makes ladies and children's outerwear clothing, turned in a pre-tax profit of £564,000 on turnover up 17 per cent from £4.79m to £5.6m. Retained earnings stood at £26,000, from pre-tax gains of £24,000.

Edwards, per share, lifted from 72p to 93.5p while for shareholders, there was an interim dividend of 3p per share, up from 2.8p last time.

Profits at Formminster have not so much as shown a hint of growth but continued since the group became public in 1971. Pre-tax profit then was only £1.2m on turnover of £1.2m. At the chairman's profit forecast for the current year, this is to be conservative. Formminster could well beat the 1971 turnover figure with this year's profits.

Industrial leaders edging a

peony of two firms included

FCI at 358p, Saxon 59p, RAT

Industries 298p, Bechtel 683p

and Unilever at 522p.

After a favourable mention Woolworth rose 1p to 644p and Avon Rubber, an old speculative favourite, ended a point better at 190p. But for the reverse reason Unilever slipped 3p to 111p.

Among takeover stocks the long running G Dew saga was resolved when it was learned that the company had received an offer worth 170p worth from the Dutch Volker Group.

Dew's shares closed 1p better

at 169p compared with a pre-suspension price of 156p.

Another long running tale to be resolved concerned motor group Henrys which jumped 9p to 136p after a profits forecast and news that Heron Motor had sold its 25 per cent stake at what was reported to be a "lucrative" price. Heron's shares jumped 5p to 81p.

Whisky shares managed to rally from early profit taking to continue their recent good run. Distillers, at the centre of the bakery dispute, but General Accident at 240p were little moved by the decision to raise motor premiums.

Banks, insurance and properties all showed little significant movement. Elsewhere, Racal rose 2p to 204p and Courtards were a point firmer at 116p.

In plantations Assam Fruition soared from 305p to 420p on hopes of a new bidder now that the Wragg estate has lapsed. Earlier reports suggested that a group of Indian businessmen might be planning a move.

In front of the marketing

Following its annual report Trafalgar House gained 4p to 156p while Formminster at 120p gained another 6p on top of the rise which came pre-announcing its profits announcement. But Crelton shed another 4p to 25p still depressed by the profits setback reported on Thursday.

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Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div. pence	Pay. date	Year's total
Formminster (1) 1.56 (1.45)	1.56 (1.45)	0.23 (0.16)	1.00 (0.77)	1.00 (0.65)	21/2	(1.0)
Saxon (1) 4.6 (4.3)	4.6 (4.3)	0.03 (0.07)	0.86 (1.18)	0.60 (1.65)	5/2	(1.6)
Elsewhere in Business News dividends						

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net.

Margins bite at Sobranie Holdings

By Michael Clark

Results of Sobranie Holdings, maker of such leading cigarette brands as Balkan Sobranie, Turkish and Sobranie Turkish No 6, which also has interests in laundry and dry cleaning, have been severely affected by a substantial reduction in margins within the tobacco division.

Pre-tax profits of the group for the six months to August 31 have dropped from £71,000 to £31,000. Turnover has risen slightly from £4.3m to £4.6m so margins slide from 1.6 per cent to 0.6 per cent. Customs drawback on exports was £1.5m against £1m. Expenses in the same period were up 0.8p compared with 1.18p.

Banks, insurance and properties all showed little significant movement. Elsewhere, Racal rose 2p to 204p and Courtards were a point firmer at 116p.

Limited interest in properties put 4p on Beaumont at 92p and tuppenny gains came from Land Securities at 218p and Stock Conversion at 256p. FC Finance rose 5p to 70p and Ladbrooke was a strong spot at 207p up 10p.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Little interest

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings End, Dec 30. 5 Contango Day, Jan 3. Settlement Day, Jan 11

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Liverpool seem about to embark upon post-Christmas surge

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent
Nor all football clubs are extending their stay with us this Christmas, especially those who have seen their stars going both east and west. West Bromwich Albion, for one, are smirking over the departure of their manager, Ronal Allen, to Saudi Arabia, and the Football League Management Committee say they have received a number of complaints about American clubs making illegal approaches to players and coaches. In seasonal terms there is a feeling that the situation is all give and no take.

In the past fortnight more players have either left for the United States, shamed by the going and gone. Town's Frenchman McCrohan announced that he was joining Detroit Express as assistant to Ken Purphy. Ron Saunders, the Aston Villa manager, who has been telling us about the cash money was not everything, but it is enough to persuade many to uproot.

In the new year there will be a meeting of American clubs and London officials and no doubt the League will also be examining the efforts of agents who are working for Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, Albion are left managerless.

First division table

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919</

SPORT

Racing

beat Current Gold is strengthened by reserves

By Michael Seely

Although the big races at Kempton Park will naturally centre on Boxing Day, a half dozen meetings on Saturday, the 24th December, will offer a variety of entertainment. The Standard Maturity Handicap Steeplechase, forms the centrepiece of an attractive new 'Current Gold' meeting. W. Gordon Richards of Gresford is sure to start a short-priced favourite and is also well-backed in the six-year-old Handicap Hurdle for the same meeting.

Opposite, on the 24th, the Gold Cup, makes its eagerly awaited appearance in the Castleford Handicap Steeplechase, over two miles. Nevill's Cup, over the same distance, is in great shape. But there is a heavy absence from the card, with the 2000 Guineas, the celio and the Gold Cup.

After an impressive victory at Kelso in November, Clinton Hall comes to greet all the festive fence in the Black and White Whisky Gold Cup at Ascot. Clinton Hall is a short-priced second favourite, but, given the afternoon, and

should be too sharp at these odds for Wyman Boy and Nice Palms.

However, Clinton, faced with the Rickmansworth Handicap Hurdle with Ice Plant, Crum, has intended to turn Lady Cadogan's five-year-old's attention to fences in the near future but, with Ice Plant's recent success at Totnes Park, he may now be inclined to turn the six-year-old to dredging for the time being.

Another likely winner is Peter Easterby's Netherwood in the first iteration of the Christmas Hurdle. Netherwood was perhaps fortunate to beat Mayhem at Newcastle but had been beaten in each of his previous four starts at Wetherby. Netherwood's stamina may blunt the finishing pace of Claudio Nicoli, who was impressive when springing home at Market Rasen.

The day's big race looks made for Current Gold to gain his first victory of the season. Third to Bachelor's Hall in the Macmillan

Gold Cup and also to Even More in the Merton Pergamon, Current Gold will naturally be home over this afternoon's three miles. In the more recent of his two Cheltenham races, Curver Gold looked to be going as well as the winner at the last fence, only to find wanting for a final burst of pace.

On the other side of the Pennines, at Thirroul, Michael Easterby is bubbling over with enthusiasm about Tudor Ig, whom he regards as his most promising young hurdling prospect since Peterhof, the 1976 Triumph Hurdle winner. Tudor Ig is a fine horse, the Northern Free Handicap and was beaten only just over six lengths by Nebbiolo in the 2,000 Guineas and it is easy to understand Easterby's confidence.

Everything will depend on the general form of Tudor Ig. Tudor Ig has had a good season, but the mud has not been kind to him, and John O'Neill has been impressed with Hidden Value's burst of finishing speed, which, he says, is superior to that possessed by most three-mile chasers.

Kempton Park programme

(Television (BBC1): 1.15, 1.45 and 2.20 races)

1245 PORT WINE STEEPELCHASE (Novices: £1,113; 24m 90yds)

1. 2000-001 St. Leger (CD) Mrs. N. Buckley, T. Bailey, S. 11-12. 1. W. Watson 2. 2000-002 Royal Hunt (CD) Mr. N. Buckley, T. Bailey, S. 11-12. 2. Mr. D. Smith 3. 2000-003 Gold Cup (CD) Mr. N. Buckley, T. Bailey, S. 11-12. 3. Mr. D. Smith 4. 2000-004 Nevill's Cup (CD) Mr. N. Buckley, T. Bailey, S. 11-12. 4. Mr. D. Smith 5. 2000-005 1000-001 1000-002 1000-003 1000-004 1000-005 1000-006 1000-007 1000-008 1000-009 1000-0010 1000-0011 1000-0012 1000-0013 1000-0014 1000-0015 1000-0016 1000-0017 1000-0018 1000-0019 1000-0020 1000-0021 1000-0022 1000-0023 1000-0024 1000-0025 1000-0026 1000-0027 1000-0028 1000-0029 1000-0030 1000-0031 1000-0032 1000-0033 1000-0034 1000-0035 1000-0036 1000-0037 1000-0038 1000-0039 1000-0040 1000-0041 1000-0042 1000-0043 1000-0044 1000-0045 1000-0046 1000-0047 1000-0048 1000-0049 1000-0050 1000-0051 1000-0052 1000-0053 1000-0054 1000-0055 1000-0056 1000-0057 1000-0058 1000-0059 1000-0060 1000-0061 1000-0062 1000-0063 1000-0064 1000-0065 1000-0066 1000-0067 1000-0068 1000-0069 1000-0070 1000-0071 1000-0072 1000-0073 1000-0074 1000-0075 1000-0076 1000-0077 1000-0078 1000-0079 1000-0080 1000-0081 1000-0082 1000-0083 1000-0084 1000-0085 1000-0086 1000-0087 1000-0088 1000-0089 1000-0090 1000-0091 1000-0092 1000-0093 1000-0094 1000-0095 1000-0096 1000-0097 1000-0098 1000-0099 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Britain's 1978 surplus 'will be bigger than West German'

Britain faces a bright economic year in 1978, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said yesterday. An expected balance of payments surplus of £1,800m should be better than West Germany's; real personal income should grow by 2½ per cent; and unemployment should level off by mid-1978.

OECD sees risks in European recession

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

Next year is likely to be much better for the British economy than 1977, according to the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). But the British improvement will take place against a deepening recession in the rest of Europe, which poses a threat to the economic well-being of the whole world, including the United Kingdom.

In the latest issue of its *Economic Outlook* the OECD warns governments of the risk that in the second half of next year the industrial nations of the world may be on a downward spiral once again.

Economic growth in the second half of 1978 will be well below the level needed to stop unemployment rising, the organization says. The total of world unemployment might rise to 17 million by next year, giving an unemployment rate higher than the previous post-war record of 1975.

The organization wants governments to begin a co-ordinated programme of expanding economies through tax cuts designed to boost demand. The most crucial element in that strategy would be the agreement of Germany, Japan and the United States.

The Americans have promised a tax cut and the Japanese are promised to do something, though most people at the OECD doubt whether it will be enough. But the Germans have not said that they do not expect the case for a further cut.

Unless the agreement of all Western countries running large surpluses can be finalized, the strategy may be impossible to implement. That is because other countries fear that expanding demand when they are still in deficit or only small surplus might lead to renewed monetary difficulties.

The continuing benefit of North Sea oil will mean that next year Britain should have a payments surplus of £3,400m, which is expected to be even larger than that of West Germany. Other elements of the British economy are also expected to look much better.

Economic growth in real terms is predicted to be 3 per cent, without taking into account the likelihood of tax cuts in Mr Healey's spring Budget to stimulate the economy.

There is expected to be a 2½ per cent growth in real personal disposable income. That should lead to an increase in consumption of about 3½ per cent.

Most of the increase in living

standards is forecast to occur in the first half of next year, however, the higher wages will spread through in the form of higher prices, pushing inflation up from an annual rate of 8½ per cent in the first half of 1978 to 10½ per cent in the second half.

The spurt in Britain's growth is expected to lead to an 11½ per cent increase in investment by next year. That, however, will not bring down unemployment significantly. It is expected to go on rising until the middle of next year, when it is expected to level off.

All those forecasts are based on the assumption that nothing new is done to stimulate the economy, so the likelihood is that the real pattern of events will show slightly faster growth later in the year because of the effect of cuts in income tax next April.

The difficulty in forecasting what will really happen to the world economy is much more marked in the rest of Europe, the United States and Japan, however. On the basis of present policies growth in Europe is expected to fall to an annual rate of 2½ per cent by the second half of next year, and to fall even more in the first half of 1979.

In Germany it is expected to be only 3 per cent in the second half of 1978. Growth as low as that will not only mean a short-term rise in unemployment but will also ensure that matters get worse because the lack of demand will mean that new investment is postponed, which in turn reduces demand.

The OECD says its threat is particularly potent in Europe, but adds that on present policies it could start happening to the United States.

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Most of the increase in living

Mr Vance likely to join negotiations in new year between Israeli and Egyptian ministers

Palestinian state issue proves stumbling block at Ismailia

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Negotiations between Egypt and Israel on an overall peace settlement in the Middle East are to continue early in the new year, despite widespread disappointment in both countries that the historic meeting in Ismailia on Christmas Day between President Sadat and Mr Menachem Begin failed to produce full agreement.

The principal difference between the two leaders was over the future of the Palestinian President, Sadat, has suggested that a Palestinian state should be established on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr Begin, the American Secretary of State, would like Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, to join in the work.

Mr Begin said he did not know yet whether Mr Vance would attend.

Mr Begin also telephoned to Mr Callaghan, who was spending Christmas at Chequers, to give him a report on the talks, and Mr Callaghan later called President Sadat.

Despite their basic disagreement on the Palestinian issue, which led them to make individual statements rather than a joint declaration, both President Sadat and Mr Begin gave

the impression at their Ismailia press conference, at the end of their talks on Monday morning, that progress was made on other matters of importance in a Middle East settlement, notably Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv: President Sadat was seen here to have got the best out of the Ismailia meeting. Mr Begin met almost fully the Egyptian demands, for the return of the Sinai peninsula and made a substantial conces-

sion regarding the Palestinian Arabs by offering administrative autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

But Mr Sadat, unless he made some secret concession, has not yielded an inch on his initial demand for a total evacuation on all fronts and self-determination for the Palestinians.

The Israeli Cabinet reviewed the summit at a four-hour meeting in Jerusalem, the most striking thing about the meeting was the mysterious absence of Mr Dayan. Mr Begin and other officials refuse to tell

reporters where Mr Dayan was, but one Cabinet source said the ministers themselves were informed confidentially of the reason for his absence.

A close aide to Mr Dayan said that the Foreign Minister was in Israel and denied speculation of a falling out with the Prime Minister. [There are unconfirmed reports, according to *Agence France-Presse*, that Mr Dayan has gone to bold talks with King Hussein of Jordan.]

Mr Begin and Mr Dayan gave contradictory evaluations of the summit meeting when they returned from Ismailia on Monday.

A beaming Prime Minister held a welcoming party at Ben-Gurion airport: "If you're prayed for our success, your prayers have been answered." However, Mr Dayan said glumly: "There are many obstacles, and I'm not sure they can be hurdled."

The statements are typical of the divergent tones taken by the two men since President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last month. Mr Begin has been

highly optimistic and Mr Dayan dubious.

Mr Ezer Weizman, the third minister in the Israeli contingent at Ismailia, was among the optimists. He told a small party caucus in the Knesset yesterday that 1978 would be "the year of peace". He believed Egypt was ready to move towards peace, and problems could be overcome in the political and economic committees.

Mr Weizman, who is Israel's

Minister of Charles Dickens is to blame.

Records at the Meteorological Office in London show that there have been only two genuine white Christmases this century. In 1906, 1917, 1927, 1936 and 1968 snow fell on Christmas Eve or Boxing Day but only in 1938 and 1970 did snow fall "deep and crisp and even" on Christmas Day.

This year proved no exception. Hopes were dashed on Friday when Kew recorded a record temperature of 62°F and over the rest of the holiday the daytime temperature stayed in the forties. The only white stuff around was the artificial kind piling down in the middle of London shows recorded twice before.

Mr Hubert Lamb, head of the climatic research unit at East Anglia University, says his researches into weather records show that in the first eight years of Dickens's life there was a white Christmas every year with either snow or a white hoar frost. "The idea of a white Christmas possibly owes a good deal to Charles Dickens and *A Christmas Carol*," Mr Lamb says.

At his own wish Charlie Chaplin—Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin—who died earlier this year, was given a simple burial today at Corsier, where he had lived for the past 25 years.

A small group of relatives, close friends and household staff were at the graveside as the Rev David Miller of the English Church in Lausanne delivered a brief eulogy and the Rev Richard Thomson, Anglican chaplain of Vevey, recited the Lord's Prayer.

Their voices were low, audible only to those at the graveside, who included Lady Chaplin, and eight of the Chaplin children, among them Sidney, his son from an earlier marriage.

The elder daughter, Geraldine, 33, was making a film in Spain when she was prevented from attending by "difficulties" there, a member of the household said. The Ambassador to Switzerland, Mr Alan Keir Rothnie, represented the British Government.

Lady Chaplin, daughter of the playwright Eugene O'Neill, looked pale and very tired. The household spokesman said she had spent much time recently at her husband's bedside.

The funeral ceremony, at the village cemetery in the hills above Vevey overlooking the eastern end of Lake Geneva, lasted no more than 20 minutes. It was raining, and a chill grey mist shrouded the Savoy Alps across the lake.

The wreath included one "to our friend and mentor" from the Swiss Circus Knie, which Chaplin watched each year when it came to Vevey.

About 300 villagers turned out to pay their last respects as the funeral procession drove through the narrow streets of Corsier, from the Manor du Ban, the Chaplin mansion.

Photograph and tributes, page 3

Leading article, page 9

Obituary, page 10

The Middle East
peace talks:
Details, page 4

Legacy of Dickens's snowy childhood

By Stewart Tendler

Now that copies of Bing Crosby's record have been returned to the BBC library for another year it can be disclosed that a white Christmas is something of a myth. According to one of Britain's leading climatologists, the childhood of Charles Dickens is to blame.

Records at the Meteorological Office in London show that there have been only two genuine white Christmases this century. In 1906, 1917, 1927, 1936 and 1968 snow fell on Christmas Eve or Boxing Day.

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Photograph and tributes, page 3

Leading article, page 9

Obituary, page 10

Heavy traffic, ,

12 people hurt in 30-car motorway crash

Twelve people were injured yesterday when 30 cars were involved in a collision on the southbound carriageway of the M1, just north of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.

The road was wet and slippery and traffic was heavy as Christmas holidaymakers returned home. The two outside lanes of the carriageway were blocked by the crash and a five-mile queue of vehicles quickly formed. A 50 mph speed limit was imposed while the jam was cleared.

Only two of the injured were in a serious condition, the police said. All 12 had been taken to Northampton General Hospital.

Weather forecast, page 2

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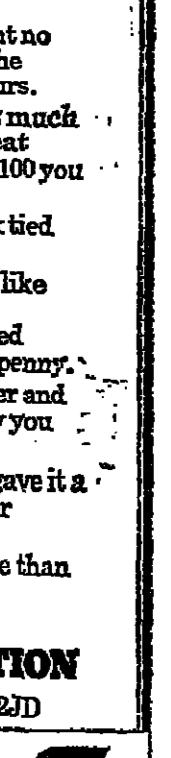
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Ballot 'may be way out of firemen's strike'

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The price of butter will go up by more than 3p a pound if EEC rules on farm prices are approved according to the Consumers' Association.

That would be in addition to a 6½p a pound increase in farm support prices which comes into force in four days' time, completing the United Kingdom's transition to European food prices.

By next autumn, the association estimates, butter will cost British shoppers 62p a pound, even if the special United Kingdom subsidy continues at the present level.

The association has called for a freeze on the prices of butter, milk, beef, sugar and cereals.

Builders to seek substantial rises

Construction union leaders have given notice of a claim for "substantial" pay increases, a shorter working week, longer holidays and other fringe benefit improvements.

The employers have shown willingness to listen to the wage demand but have said that the industry cannot afford a shorter week or longer holidays.

Page 2

New Soviet missile worries US

From David Cross
Washington, Dec 27

HOME NEWS

Ballot suggested by employers as one way out of impasse in firemen's 44-day official strike

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the Fire Brigades Union are to gather in London tomorrow to assess the impact of their official strike, now well into its seventh week. The employers hope that reflection over the Christmas holiday will have prompted a change of heart, but that was being discounted by senior union officials last night.

The union executive will be meeting for the first time since its appeal for help from the rest of the Labour movement in a wages offensive against the Government's 10 per cent pay policy split the TUC down the middle a week ago. Ministers are relying on the TUC's refusal to support the firemen's demand for a 10 per cent pay increase.

Mr Brian Rusbridge, secretary of the employers' side, said last night: "I do not want it to be thought that anybody is trying a process of attrition. Nobody wants to see that. What we want to see is the fire service back in full commission again, and the employers genuinely believe the offer they have made is an honourable way to achieve this."

The employers think that a ballot of the striking firemen

"may be one way" of finding a way out of the impasse that threatens to set a new postwar record for an official strike in the public service.

"We feel that a lot of firemen on the ground would be quite ready to take the offer," Mr Rusbridge added. The local authorities have offered the firemen 10 per cent immediately, a reduction of hours from 48 to 42 a week from next autumn, and a new pay structure giving big but unspecified increases in November, 1978, and November, 1979. Mr Callaghan has pledged that the Government will underwrite the cost of such a settlement.

But the most that can be expected from tomorrow's union executive meeting, according to informed sources, is a possible recall of the regular informal contact with Mr Terence Parry, the union's general secretary, which originally mounted the strike. Only that body can call it off. If the conference is recalled, opinion on the strike would be divided, but executive members determined to see the issue through are privately confident of being able to keep the strike going.

Mr Richard Fogie, assistant general secretary of the union, admitted that there had been some defections from the

strikers' ranks, but insisted they were "not significant numbers". Press reports of men deciding to go back to work had usually proved false.

"Nowhere have we had two dozen men going back to work," he said. Against that background of apparent solidarity over the demand for an increase now in excess of the 10 per cent limit, pickets were out at all fire stations over the Christmas holiday.

Many pickets were visited by fellow unionists and members of the public. "The public were absolutely amazed. They have been playing the lads with all sorts of Christmas cheer," Mr Fogie said.

The employers' side is not due to meet again until January 6, though Mr Rusbridge is in regular informal contact with Mr Terence Parry, the union's general secretary, who appears for bargaining from the General Council of the TUC was defeated by 20 votes to 17 last week. No improvement in the offer has been made, and none is likely.

The employers see three possibilities ahead: the strike continuing indefinitely; a steady drift of firemen from the service to other jobs in industry; or a gradual return to work. They are "waiting and watching" to see which transpires.

Building unions to ask for substantial rises

By Our Labour Editor

Construction union leaders have given advance notice of a claim for "substantial" increases for a million building workers. They are also seeking a shorter working week, longer holidays and other fringe benefit improvements.

The claim has been submitted in outline by Mr George Smith, chairman of the trade union side of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry and general secretary of the industry's liaison section, the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians.

In a letter to the National Federation of Building Trades Employers he said that the three manual unions would seek substantial increases in pay and consolidation into basic rates of the 56 and 41 per cent incomes policy sup-

"In their first response to the claim, the employers have shown a willingness to listen to the wage demands, arguing that the industry's pay structure should be simplified. They will be sympathetic to improving sickness benefits.

But pressure to cut the working week to below 40 hours will be strongly opposed, and the employers will insist that the industry cannot afford to increase holidays.

Negotiations on the builders' claim will start in earnest next month.

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SECRETARIAL. 24

HOME NEWS

Widespread complaints over goods guarantees

By Robin Young

Consumers' complaints about guarantees are so numerous that there is "need for a general code of practice", Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, suggests in a consultative paper.

Local authority trading standards officers reported 1,257 complaints about guarantees in the first half of this year. Complaints included cases where the guarantee on goods received as a gift was in the name of the purchaser and could not be transferred to the recipient. In other cases the guarantee period had expired before the goods were satisfactorily repaired.

Mr Borrie says that guarantee clauses are "so restrictive and unreasonable that their use cannot be justified". He includes under that heading demands that goods should be returned in the original packing requirements that could not be met, bought from an appointed dealer, or full list price and conditions that do not allow the consumer a reasonable time in which to return a registration card to qualify for the guarantee.

An Office of Fair Trading study of guarantees has shown that the detailed terms of guarantees are seldom advertised, and that often the consumer learns of the guarantee only after making the purchase.

Mr Borrie says customers should have the opportunity to examine guarantees before committing themselves to purchase.

His consultative paper suggests that where guarantees are advertised, their basic limitations should be disclosed.

Mr Borrie has sent his paper to more than seventy organizations representing consumers, trade and industry and local authorities, asking for their comments by February 28.

Universities unable to avoid deficits

By Tim Abbott

British universities are finding it harder to make ends meet, according to the latest batch of annual reports. Bristol, for example, expects a deficit of £300,000 on the income and expenditure account for 1977-78.

Unfortunately this is not the end of the story, writes Dr Richard Hill, chairman of the council for the University Grants Committee (UGC).

Dr Hill's report for 1977-78 was said by the Secretary of State to represent an increase in 1976-77 of 1 per cent in real terms.

However, omitted from his statement was the fact that this was based on an assumed increase in salaries and wages of 5 per cent and a price increase for all other items of expenditure of 12 per cent.

Leaving on one side this last figure, if the figure for the increase in salaries and wages were in any way realistic, it would mean the most scandalous treatment of our staff and one university could not accept.

At Kent a deficit of £250,000 for 1977-78 is expected by Dr Geoffrey Templeman, the vice-chancellor. He notes that posts have been limited of dispensable, books and periodicals unbought, essential maintenance budgets have become chronically depressed.

This year, he says, the books were more or less balanced: next year's expected deficit means that the university will have to use up the rest of its revenue reserve.

Several vice-chancellors point out that the Government's decision to raise student fees has compounded their difficulties. From Bath, Dr Paul Marston, the vice-chancellor, says that since five-fifths of those fees are paid out of public funds, the main effect is to complicate accounting procedures whereby money eventually finds its way to the university.

About a quarter of recurrent

income has to be collected from individual students, he says. "This must mean that more and more administrators in the public sector chase sums of public money round smaller and smaller circles, while vacancies in academic staff and technical support at the cutting edge of the university system have to be held frozen."

At Leicester, Dr Ralph Davis, pro vice-chancellor, describes the past year as one of "equilibrium maintained by small adjustments". At one stage, the university faced a possible deficit of £774,000 for 1977-78, he says.

"We came to the conclusion that by the most stringent economies short of staff dismissals, starting at once with a view to producing a surplus of £250,000 in 1976-77 to help the following years, we could just get by with the help of our reserves. Throughout the year, we have been looking everywhere to cut expenditure.

Dr G. M. Carrasco, vice-chancellor of York, says that if the universities are passing through a period of seven lean years there are still three more to go.

Hub goes into detail on the finances:

The budget for 1976-77 was £17.5 million. The UGC's grant was £60,000, leaving for 1977-78 an allocation of only £25,000 to cover an estimated requirement of £24,000. The restricted budget could not be met.

The estimate for the maintenance of buildings and grounds already drastically pruned, had to be further cut. Capital grants can no longer be relied upon to finance the maintenance of buildings, nor can the university afford to finance it from its own resources; yet it is essential for our expansion that the programme continues.

The garden's section is particularly affected by the cutbacks, and it is unlikely that the work will be carried on in the future.

There would also be a "draw-down" of 3.5 metres, and of 10 metres of embankment, resulting in unnecessary tracts of mud at times of low water. One farm on the lake shore, Mire-side, which is owned by the National Trust, might loose about 30 acres of agricultural land.

The debate will doubtless become more involved.

Mr Thomas Jackson, of Rourton Farm, which overlooks the lake, said: "This will never be the same again, and the greatest tragedy is that it is one of the unsightly valleys in the national park."

Progressive thinking leads to the conclusion that the preservation of the Ennerdale is of the utmost importance in the more economics of the water supply situation in west Cumbria.

The purpose of raising the lake is to enhance water supplies to industrial west Cumbria, and the authority chose the scheme in preference to a £4.57 million project to take water from the Derwent, near Workington. That alternative was favoured by most of the objectors in representations made to the water authority earlier this year, when they also made it clear that in principle they oppose the Ennerdale scheme.

Predicably, the objectors take the opposite view. "Times are changing", Mr William Badger, secretary of west Cumbria branch of the Friends of the Earth, said. "The days when any development was universally greeted as progress are past.

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The Derwent scheme would have the minimum environmental impact, with the capacity to meet requirements well into the next century. Alternatively, the Ennerdale scheme would meet growth in domestic and industrial demand until the end of the century.

The authority is confident that the Ennerdale development can take place without damaging the character of the lake.

Mr Brian Oldfield, its director of resource planning, said: "We are not talking about a lake that will take at least a generation to heal."

It is predicted that west Cumbria will run short of water by 1979 unless action is taken quickly, and a scheme is regarded as essential to its con-

Strong opposition to £2m lake scheme in unspoilt valley of a national park

From a Special Correspondent

The North West Water Authority's decision to approve a £223,000 scheme to raise by 4ft the level of Ennerdale lake, in the heart of Cumbria's national park, is proving controversial. It seems inevitable that a public inquiry will be held.

Many organizations seek to object to the proposal; they will probably include the Lake District Special Planning Board, the National Trust, the Friends of the Lake District, the Cumbrian Landowners' Association, the Youth Hostels Association, the Nature Conservancy, Cumbrian Countryside Conference and Friends of the Earth.

Proponents, apart from the water authority, will probably be Cumbria County Council, and Copeland and Allerdale district councils.

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It is predicted that west Cumbria will run short of water by 1979 unless action is taken quickly, and a scheme is regarded as essential to its con-

tinuing housing and industrial development.

The planners consider that in balancing amenity against expenditure it is difficult to believe that the preservation of the environmental status quo at Ennerdale justifies the expenditure of an additional £2m of public money. In the long term the Ennerdale scheme will also cost less to run than the Derwent project.

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Sir Richard Marsh questions MPs' role

By Our Political Staff

Sir Richard Marsh, a former Labour Minister, chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association, and former chairman of the British Railways Board, attacked the old-line members in the House of Commons for failing to reform parliamentary procedures to take account of modern economic and industrial realities.

Parliament still clung to antiquated ideas that existed when it was formed as a group of courtiers who gathered together to advise the king on how to run the country, he said in a BBC radio interview.

The people would take a grumpy view of industry if it did not change to meet new conditions, he said. "But members of Parliament have got into

the habit of thinking that lack of change is something to be proud of."

The Commons had become rather like the House of Lords, like the correspondence columns of *The Times*, where one heard the views of interesting people, while the real macro-economic and political policy making was done outside Parliament between ministers, the Confederation of British Industry and the trade unions.

That task was reserved for the "real big chaps" outside Parliament. MPs in the Commons did a considerable job for their constituents on a social welfare basis but the House was not a place for people with executive ambitions.

"They would not be able to

Changes in law included in updated Highway Code

A new version of the Highway Code is to appear in February. The present code has become out of date in several important respects since it was published nine years ago.

The Department of Transport has admitted that the cost will be greater than that of the present version, but it hopes that it would be "nearer 15p than 50p".

A Green Paper setting out the Government's proposed revisions to the code was published in 1974, but it was not until November last year that time was found to debate it. After further revision it passed through Parliament last month.

The new code gives advice reflecting many changes in road use and legislation since 1969.

The first Highway Code was published in 1930. The introduction said: "Good manners and consideration for others are as desirable and as are much appreciated on the roads as elsewhere."

There is advice about carrying

young children only in the back of cars in approved safety harnesses, which goes some way towards the situation in Switzerland, where it is an offence to have a child in the front passenger seat.

It gives a warning about never driving after drinking and is influenced by EEC regulations when it advises drivers not to use tinted visors and sun glasses at night.

Other changes on guidance are given include zigzag markings at pedestrian crossings, the use of bus lanes, what to do at the scene of an accident, dangerous goods symbols, the European hexagonal "stop" sign, and revised speed limits.

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No trace, but quiet

Although the Provisional IRA did not call a Christmas truce in Northern Ireland this year, incidents were reported over the holiday period. Security was at a high level.

WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS



Lady Chaplin (second from right) and members of her family at the funeral yesterday.

Vietnam joins world in mourning Chaplin

Official tributes to Charlie Chaplin, who died in Geneva on Christmas Day aged 88,

have come from all over the world, both East and West.

In Vietnam, the Communist Party daily *Nhan Dan*, in a rare tribute to a "Western artist", eulogized Chaplin as a "great humanist".

Today in Moscow, eulogized Chaplin as a "wonderful artist" who "glorified ordinary people and ennobled men", whose films were "both comical and" an in-

spiration towards a just and equal life".

The Chinese press praised his "satires on capitalism and fascism" and said he was a victim of McCarthyism.

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Boy of 11 is killed in ambush

Salisbury, Dec 27.—Sixty-six

people have been killed since Christmas Eve in the war between Rhodesian forces and black nationalist guerrillas, military headquarters said today.

In words which appeared to be intended to reassure conservative elements who object to a constitutional proposal to push back the age of majority to 18, the King said on youth: "We should not rob them of the chance to live in justice and freedom."

Speaking from the Zarzuela palace, the King said on Christmas Eve: "There can be no doubt that we have come a long way in these two years by dint of effort and sacrifice but also with decision, hope and optimism."

He was shown in the pre-recorded television programme with Queen Sofia and their three children.

"Prosperity, liberty and peace cannot be won without unity", he went on, adding: "Our task is to build an orderly future."

On the controversial issue of autonomy for various regions of Spain, he said: "From the integrating viewpoint of the monarchy, one can see the richness which both the variety and plurality of the Spanish regions, different but not opposed to each other, each with its own personality, but all sharing in the same national destiny...

The debate will doubtless become more involved.

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MIDDLE EAST TALKS

Ismailia summit's quest for a breakthrough to peace

Dec 24.—Israeli Government officials said today that Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, was taking two chief proposals with him to the summit meeting in Ismailia with President Sadat of Egypt.

One of these plans was for a bilateral settlement with Egypt; the other dealt with the biggest problem of all, the Palestinians.

Israeli newspapers and the state radio and television speculated that Israel was ready to recognize Egyptian sovereignty over the entire Sinai, part of which is now Israeli-occupied. But special status would be accorded existing Israeli enclaves in the northern Rafah area and at Sharm-al-Sheikh, the southernmost point.

Israel was also said to be asking for most of Sinai to be demilitarized, and that both Israel and Egypt maintain existing early warning electronic surveillance centres at strategic mountain passes.

Mr Begin, who discussed the proposals with President Carter during his Washington visit, disclosed on American television that the most important provision concerning the Palestinians was to grant them limited autonomy.

Speculation in Jerusalem is that residents in the West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza Strip would elect representatives to a governing council, to deal largely with municipal matters, such as education, health, police and taxes. Israel would control security and maintain some troops in the Jordan River area.

Both Israel and Jordan—which ruled the West Bank from 1948 to the 1967 war—would be represented in the council. The arrangement would be re-examined after five years.

Arab residents would be permitted to choose either Israeli or Jordanian citizenship, while some 50 controversial Israeli settlements in the occupied area would remain.

The plan was also believed to provide for an international commission, including Saudi Arabian and Moroccan representatives, to supervise Muslim holy places in Jerusalem. Another international commission would deal with the resettlement of Arab refugees.

Georgia. He told reporters afterwards: "The connexion was pretty bad. I could just barely hear them. So I relayed a message to them that they have my best wishes and support and that the whole world awaits the peace that they can bring us on this Christmas Day."

Egyptian officials in Ismailia were quoted as saying that the line went down as President Sadat took the call, but the White House said it believed there was at least a brief conversation between the two men.

Mr Begin, who is the first Israeli Prime Minister to be welcomed in an Arab state, and President Sadat emerged smiling from their private meeting.

Asked whether they reached a joint agreement, Mr Begin said: "We had serious discussions for several hours in complete sincerity. We will resume our talks tomorrow at 9 am. Tonight we are guests of President Sadat and there is good hope that we reach agreement."

The two leaders reported that they had reached quick agreement on new steps towards a negotiated Middle East peace. "We have got off on the right foot," Mr Begin said. An Israeli spokesman said Mr Begin also presented a draft declaration of intent for a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

Begin anger over leaking of peace terms

The two men agreed before their lunch adjournment that peace negotiations would be continued at the level of foreign and defence ministers after their summit.

When Mr Begin learnt of the disclosure in Israeli newspapers of some of his peace plans he expressed great anger, according to newsmen travelling with him.

The chairman of the foreign affairs and security committee of the Knesset said the information had been leaked after Mr Begin had shown the plan to the committee over the weekend.

After lunch Mr Sadat and Mr Begin had a second private meeting and in the evening the two delegations met once more.

Sources said the future talks between foreign and defence ministers would be linked to the Cairo conference.

They said the leaders of the Cairo talks would become Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Kamal, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, and Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General.

Mr Kamal told reporters that a settlement based on full withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories) and the restoration of Palestinian rights must lead to permanent peace".

Asked whether there was any progress during the talks, Mr Kamal said: "Any talk lead to an understanding and a rapprochement in the points of view. Our demands are clear and we will insist on them."

Mr Gamal Ali Osman, President Sadat's father-in-law, and the member of Parliament for Ismailia, said he did not believe the plan was the same as that outlined by Mr Begin during his visit to Washington last week.

Mr Sadat makes no comment on Israeli plan

"That one I think was for local consumption," he said. "He did not elaborate."

Mr Begin's Washington tour, planned as a goodwill gesture for the West Bank but with the continued presence of Israeli troops, President Sadat subsequently went on record as saying a continued Israeli military presence on the West Bank was unacceptable.

Egyptian officials said the Egyptian delegation met alone in the afternoon to draft its counter-proposals to the Israeli declaration of intent.

It was announced that Mr Begin would stay the night in Ismailia to allow time for more talks.

Mr Sadat agreed with Mr Begin that the talks had started well. But while agreement was quickly reached on how negotiations could be continued, Mr Sadat had no comment to reporters on the substance of the Israeli plan for peace itself.

According to a senior Israeli delegate at the summit, Mr Begin's Government feels it has made major concessions and expects President Sadat to follow suit.

"A wide gap still exists between our positions," he said. "If we are to make any real progress, President Sadat must match at least some of the broad military and political concessions made by Israel. The negotiations must be a two-way street with give and take by both sides. So far, only we have been given."

The Prime Minister's wife, Mrs Aliza Begin, was forced to call off her plane to visit Mrs Jehan Sadat, the President's wife, because of influenza. Instead Mrs Begin sent Mrs Sadat a gift and a message with the Prime Minister.

In Beirut, about 3,000 Palestinians, many of them carrying automatic weapons, marched through the streets in protest against the peace talks.

The demonstrators, members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), converged on a sports stadium

According to reports leaked by the Israeli press and radio, the peace plan presented by Mr Begin to President Sadat envisages:

1. Israel to withdraw to a line from El Arish, northern Sinai, to the southernmost tip of the peninsula at Ras Muhammad for an interim period of between three and five years.

2. Israel afterwards to complete the evacuation of Sinai to the pre-1967 international boundary line.

3. Israeli settlements in Sinai to be under Egyptian sovereignty but settlers to retain Israeli citizenship and be subject to Israeli laws and controls.

4. Israel and Egypt to exchange consuls-general until completion of the Israeli evacuation of Sinai when legations would be up-graded to ambassadorial level.

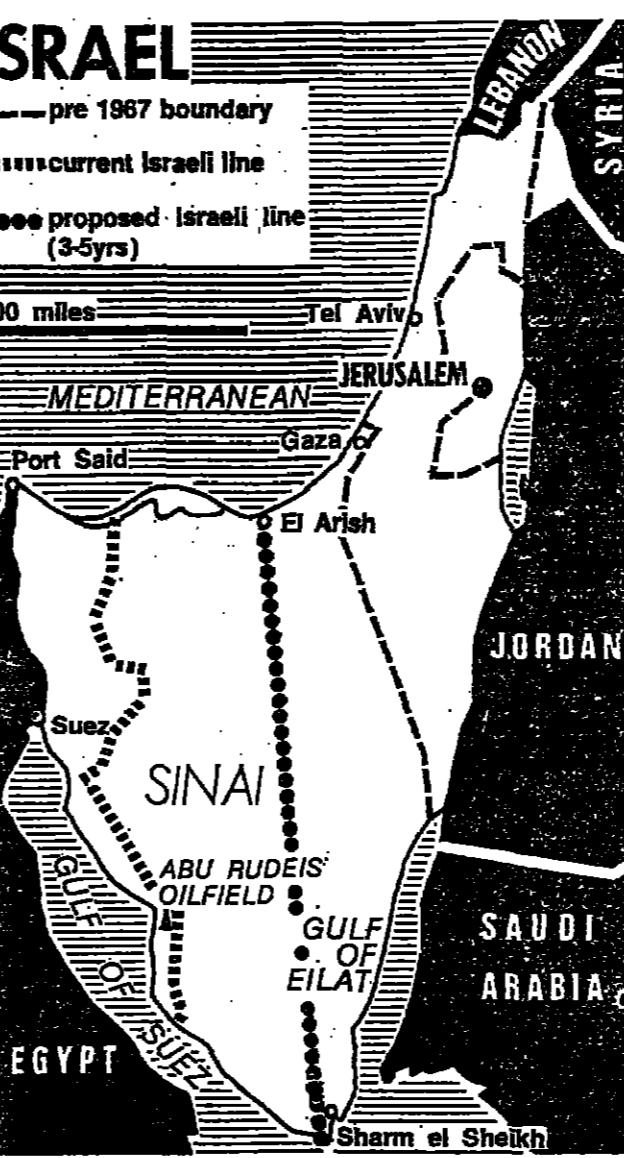
5. Autonomous rule for the occupied West Bank of Jordan for a period of 20 years with the establishment of a ruling council for internal affairs and formation of 10 departments, similar to government ministries.

6. At the end of the interim period a tripartite committee to be established of representatives of Jordan, Israel and the West Bank people to determine its future, all parties having the right of veto.

7. Israelis to retain the right to establish settlements in Judea and Samaria and Arabs who opt for Israeli citizenship to be entitled to purchase and own land anywhere in Israel.

8. Autonomy for the Gaza Strip.

9. Israel to maintain a military presence in the West Bank and in Gaza. Security and foreign affairs to be handled by Israel.



Mr Begin makes a sweeping gesture as he talks with President Sadat during their first meeting on Christmas Day

for a mass rally marked by chants, songs and speeches denouncing Mr Sadat.

The Marxist-oriented DFLP is the second biggest Palestinian guerrilla group after Fatah.

Guerrillas armed with Soviet-made assault rifles marched at the head of the long procession as it wound slowly through the narrow streets to the strains of a funeral march.

A large contingent of Syrian troops attached to the Arab League force, which supervises the post-civil war truce in Lebanon, stood by along the route and inside the stadium, but there were no incidents.

Before addressing the rally, Mr Dayan announced he expected the peace talks in Egypt to produce an alliance between Egypt and the United States, and that his guerrilla forces were prepared to destroy it.

"Clearly they will announce the general principles of a deal between Sadat and Carter which will be against Palestinian interests," he said.

"We feel very bitter because this is going to lead to the destruction of our national rights," Mr Kamal said: "Any talk lead to an understanding and a rapprochement in the points of view. Our demands are clear and we will insist on them."

Mr Kamal told reporters that a settlement based on full withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories) and the restoration of Palestinian rights must lead to permanent peace".

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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THE MUSICAL MUSICAL
"SILK, SILK, SILK, SILK, SILK HAS
EVERYTHING", Only Express
INSTANT BOOKINGS 01-526 7611
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ALBURY, 03-3579. Tues. 7.30, Sat.
11.30, Sun. 12.30
THE MAGICAL MUSICAL
OLIVER!
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HILARIOUS WOOLWICH MUSICAL
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Staggeringly effective "Elvis"
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success, the audience dancing in the aisles.
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Guest Column

And now a word on behalf of women

This week's guest column
is by
Marjorie Duncan Hollowood

When a male birth is greeted with just that extra bit of rejoicing—"It's a boy"—what effect does this have on the female psyche? Does it, as I believe, subtly undermine women's confidence in their own worth? When a timid, fussy man is described as "a proper old woman", how do senior citizens (feminine gender) feel about the implied slight?

Words and phrases like these are unfair and unkind to women and typify a linguistic bias which is embodied in our everyday speech. For example, ambiguous language which women's achievements out of the home.

References to *men* and *man-kind* abound not only in the Bible but throughout our literature. Although men purport to include *women*, the generic term undoubtedly obscures women's part in history. What is more, the absence of a pronoun meaning both *he* and *she* makes it extremely difficult for even the most fair-minded of writers to give women their due. *Men* and *women*, *he* and *she* insensibly become *men* and *men*, and, in no time at all, *he* is apparently doing, making and creating everything. Women as innovators of civilization are lucky if they get so much as a mention in a footnote.

A similar obfuscation reigns with sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. Who has ever heard of a business entitled *... and Daughters*, or seen a shop sign *... Sis*? Yet there are, and must have been, such undertakings. In the centuries preceding the Industrial Revolution women belonged to guilds, managed farms and ran businesses. Surprisingly, *edita* in Brewster, Webster and so on denote a female entrepreneur. Where have all the ladies gone?

To ambiguity is added sheer muddle.

Only can mean solely or merely. So what does "He only had daughters" convey? Is it a plain statement of fact or are we to pity the poor man for his bad luck? The same goes for *just*. Is "She's just a housewife" faintly disparaging, or isn't it?

Another kind of linguistic sleight of hand has contrived to throw doubt on women's mental capacity. Women have traditionally been bracketed with children *women and children*. And women, *lunatics*, *opium-eaters* and *stereos* were excluded from the vote. These juxtapositions have seemed to imply that women are somewhat weak in the head.

The trouble with words is that they are often loaded with unintended meanings.

Language tends to lag behind advances in thinking and to perpetuate past attitudes. When the "National Council for Unmarried Mothers" rechristened itself "National Council for One Parent Families" it eliminated the stigmatizing label.

But the term has not entirely lost its sting. When a girl in court, say on a shoplifting charge, is described as "an unmarried mother" this is unlikely to help her defence. A young man would not be identified in this performative way. Similarly, newspaper reports often mention "a husband and his common-law wife". Why is it the woman who gets the label?

There is no doubt in my mind that a linguistic double standard exists which reflects other double standards: legal, social, economic and moral. The finger of scorn still points more readily at the female than the male. It is more reprehensible for a woman to be drunk; it is even, somehow, worse for a woman to be old. For the term *old woman* to achieve parity of esteem with the affectionate *old*

man, it has to be upgraded socially to *old lady* or rejuvenated to *old girl*.

The dictionary defines a prostitute as "a woman who offers her body for hire..." and allows the other party to the transaction to remain incognito. Roger's Thesaurus gives 60 words for females of easy virtue but only 22 for their male counterparts.

And, apart from *filler de jete*, terms applying to women are considerably more unsavory. Compare the resentful *she-wolf*, *dog-woman*, *baggage* with the playful *rat*, *satyr*, *giant* and *gay deceiver*; *Isabel with Don Juan* or the gay *Lothario*.

Epithets from the animal kingdom carry more disagreeable undertones in the feminine than the masculine gender. As terms of abuse, *dog* and *cow* are mild compared to *bitch*, and would require further qualification to be equally offensive—*swivelling cur*, perhaps. Or contrast the affectionate *old cock* with the derisive *old hen*. Male appellations seem to be flatteringly linked with prowess—*buck*, *wolf*, *stallion*, *stag*. Female terms—*sow*, *old cow*, *wixen*, *cat* and *shrew*—suggest squalor, redundancy and a poisonous bad temper.

It may be thought that facts have been selected to suit the case. I don't think so. I am not denying that there are plenty of male rogues, villains, swine, rats, etc. on, or that there are terms of endearment by men for women. What I am saying is that there is an overall imbalance.

Women get more than their fair share of blame and castigation. One last example: there is no female equivalent for misogynist: hater of women. *Misandromist*: disesteem of men by women is so rare as to be virtually unknown.

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Giving released mental patients a better chance of success

During the past 10 years more than 1,200 patients have been discharged direct into the community from our four top security special hospitals—Broadmoor, Rampton, Moss Side and Park Lane—and to help former patients coming out of these special hospitals, The Matthew Trust has been set up.

The trust took its name from St Matthew's Gospel—largely because of the reference Jesus made in Chapter 25: "I was a stranger and you visited me... I was in prison and you came to me... and I am preparing myself to provide help in areas not fully covered by statutory sources.

The Mathew Trust is, of course, in its infancy. Programmes for detailed research into the areas ex-special hospital patients find themselves in on discharge are now being closely studied. Only one important study has been done in the past 10 years on the fate of this type of ex-patient, and this revealed that 35 per cent of ex-patients from special hospitals had been detained again within two years of discharge direct into the community—those that had been discharged via NHS—those that had been included and, therefore, one can assume that the redemption rate is even higher.

The difficulties the probation and social welfare services experience, let alone voluntary organizations, are immense but uncodified mainly because follow up studies of patients have not been tackled systematically. The Mathew Trust hopes to resolve this particular issue by tracing, over a five-year period, the lives of some 50 ex-patients.

Getting this type of patient established is difficult, particularly when the family home is broken up and it is here that The Mathew Trust intends to spend much of its efforts, and with employers. Providing an indemnity bonding scheme to protect employers from uncollected ex-patients is one of The Mathew Trust especially for those former patients whose illness led to fraud, embezzlement and other similar offences.

Finding out why industry and the business community has such a fear of offenders with mental illness backgrounds

is another priority of The Mathew Trust and the attitudes of the personnel managers, on learning of a special hospital background, will be evaluated in an attempt to educate them and to help them understand that no patient discharged is still suffering from the effects of earlier illness.

The Mathew Trust has already been called upon by patients in some of the special hospitals to assist with legal representation at mental health review tribunals assisting with employment and accommodation and acting as intermediaries in broken family situations. Many requests have also come from ex-convicts and the probation service for similar assistance. The question of legal representation at tribunals is one of the main concerns of The Mathew Trust because special tribunals can have greater authority than the courts.

The Mathew Trust is studying the effectiveness of pre-release treatment and guidance is in the four hospitals; £14m is spent a year on 2,000 patients in our four special hospitals, but little of this sum is devoted to reorientation programmes for discharge.

The Mathew Trust believes the special hospital authorities should prepare patients for discharge by giving a structured programme prior to discharge that covers employment, social awareness, residential and leisure briefings under the aegis of specialists in these areas coupled with the weekend excursions that patients already have prior to discharge.

Some do overcome discharge difficulties. One patient from Broadmoor Hospital took Civil Service exams and now has a senior position in the Home Office and another is a senior partner in a firm of chartered accountants, but these are exceptions to the rule. Most find settling down fraught with difficulties—particularly getting jobs—and invariably accept the inevitable life in a hostel and some menial job.

It is not generally appreciated that the type of patient coming out of the special hospitals is not always from a working class background. Quite frequently the patient may have held a commission in the services, been in a senior management position in industry or been an entrepre-

neur, schoolmaster or scientist. As the National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI) has said before "Mental illness is not the sole prerogative of the working classes".

But whatever the social background the former patient still has adjustment problems. Hostels, like those provided by the Church Army, Lancashire Trust and others provide important support, but The Mathew Trust believes that "group homes" are a more realistic solution. Six to ten patients living with each other and working during the day and supervised by staff retired from one or more of the special hospitals seems more to meet the need of those having had complicated psychiatric backgrounds.

Home and job found, the patient from a special hospital requires a greater degree of support than, perhaps, the ex-prisoner, for a term of two or more years in a special hospital leaves its mark on the mental and emotional make-up of the ex-patient. When one has had to accept that one's treatment, in terms of judgment, behaviour and social responsibility has been taken away for several years it is often terribly difficult to have total confidence on discharge and to resume a place in a busy, competitive society and to reacquire social skills that the average person takes for granted.

It is too easy for the professionals to say "what we need is an educational programme... to get the public to understand... for in the end the success of the patients total integration is dependent upon human contact and trusting relationships in which the ex-patient learns to grow again and mature to a point that he or she is like anyone else".

The Mathew Trust has no pretensions about the task ahead of it. Given the encouragement that it needs from the Department of Health and Social Services and from trusts, companies and individuals, the lot of the former patient from our four special hospitals might conceivably be more hopeful.

Peter Thompson

The author is Principal Trustee of the Mathew Trust

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Why Congress bowed to the grand old lady of the Deep South

She steams majestically around a bend in the wide Mississippi river like a ghostly presence from the past, her huge stern paddle churning the muddy waters and forcing her 1,650-ton bulk along at a stately 8 mph. But she is not quiet ghost. You can hear her when she is still 10 miles away, and the cry "Riverboat's a-comin'" still brings riverfolk hurrying to the water's edge to await her arrival just as they did in the days of Mark Twain.

She is the Delta Queen—the grand old lady of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, the fast of the old-time steam driven overnight riverboats, and a queen from the tip of her crown-topped funnels down to her teak floors and stained glass windows.

And she is afloor today because of the tenacity of a woman who loves her and who saved her from the breakers yard by taking on the Washington bureaucrats and beating them at their own game.

The Delta Queen was built on the Clyde in the 1920s and shipped out to the United States for use in the sheltered waters of San Francisco Bay. She was used as a trooping ship during the Second World War, then sold to what is now the Delta Queen Steamship Company for use on the Mississippi.

There her regal looks and stately progress quickly became a tourist attraction. Remodelled and refitted at a cost of \$750,000, she was the one remaining example of the taste and opulence of the old-style riverboats, her wooden superstructure complete with teak handrails, ironwork flooring, copper-sealed stained glass windows, and lots of oak and mahogany paneling.

But in 1956, after disastrous fires on board, two big passenger liners at sea, the United States Congress passed a law which looked like ending the Delta Queen's reign. The Safety at Sea law required that any vessel carrying more than 50 overnight passengers must be constructed entirely of steel—and lawyers decided to this new rule extended to riverboats.

But they had reckoned without Mrs Betty Blake, who had joined the Delta Queen Steamship Company as a saleswoman and part-time PR director. Formerly with a television station doing sales promotion, and an admirer of the riverboat, she had been recruited by Mrs Blake first at home on the river and among the riverfolk. She loved the tradition and language of the Mississippi—and she determined that the Delta Queen should not die.

"I went around the country and told everybody about the boat," she says. She wrote to Congressmen and broadcasting stations and everyone influential that she could think of. She organized protest rallies, knocked on Senators' doors.

Robin Mead

Won't you be my 'Postal Parent' for £4.33 a month?



Agnes Muthoni, Age 8, Kenya

Geraldine Norman, Age 10, Burundi

The same three parties would like to bury their heads in the sand in the hope that another major problem—corruption—will go away. Sir Murray, once reluctantly persuaded of the scope of graft from Hongkong tradition in tackling the issue head-on. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) was set up in 1974.

Corruption has always existed in the business community (in the form of kickbacks and "commissions") but as Hongkong is an efficient free port it is concentrated among the relatively few government departments which dispense valuable contracts and those with daily contacts with

the same three parties.

Agnes was born deaf and dumb. She has seven brothers and sisters. And her father is unable to provide adequately for the family. Muthabanki, in Nairobi, is not doing very well. But without aid of any kind his parents will be unable to keep him at school. Jar is a very poor Indian tribal boy. He is undernourished and inadequately clothed. His father is also too poor to pay for Jar's education. Hassan is one of four children. Although his parents try hard they find it almost impossible to provide him with sufficient food and clothing.

Without funds these children face a bleak future. Yet you can give them a chance. As a "Postal Parent" giving £4.33 a month you could enable us to provide a well-balanced diet, clothing and a practical training. And you could follow "your" child's progress through letters.

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Bernard Levin

Three cautionary tales for admirers of the great Workers' State

I have made clear on more than one occasion my view that the TUC's greatest single betrayal of their own *raison d'être*, and of the interests of those they represent, had nothing to do with British domestic, economic or political matters, but was represented by the fawning welcome they extended to Alexander Shelepin, the man whose job was to crush any attempt on the part of Soviet workers to combine in their own interests or to express their grievances.

After that betrayal by the democrats, led by Mr Len Murray, the activities of the communists' fellow-travellers, even Mr Alex Kitson, can hardly be wondered at, or indeed complained about, if you can do the job, they respect you."

They respect tradition too. Although the Mississippi Queen, the Delta Queen's steel-built sister ship, is popular, it is the Delta Queen which draws the crowds to the levee (the cobbled area at the water's edge) in towns like New Orleans, St Louis, Pittsburgh, Nashville and Cincinnati. They want to see the traditional crew, fife and drum, the joyous notes of the calliope (or steam piano) which carry for 10 miles, and watch the stage being lowered.

"Stage" is river-talk for gangplank, and is so called because it is where the crews of the old boats used to put on impromptu shows for plantation workers.

The river has a language of its own that has few similarities to accepted nautical terms. Ship-to-ship signals are based on whistles, so even the sides of the boat are the one-whistle side and the two-whistle side instead of port and starboard.

Mrs Blake, and thousands of her fellow enthusiasts, are determined that these traditions should survive. In fact, the only thing missing for the Delta Queen's 12,000 passengers a year is a real riverboat gambler, of the kind seen in a score of American films. "We travel through several states which forbid gambling", Mrs Blake explains. "But we do have a pretend gambler, and bongo players, and all the other things that you would expect. We try to recreate what they did on the old riverboats—that kind of entertainment instead of deck sports. And we try to teach people the history of the river, of steamboats, and of the Civil War."

"What we need now is legislation to permanently exempt the Delta Queen from the Safety at Sea law. It is so important to preserve these traditions that we organized protest rallies, knocked on Senators' doors.

Robin Mead

they know perfectly well what life is like in the Soviet Union, and are ever-busy about their work of ensuring that life becomes as nearly as possible the same in Britain. But Mr Murray, after all, is not to be numbered among this crew, even though he is also not to be numbered with the Frank Chappells who are actually working to ensure that the crew do not succeed in their tasks, and it is therefore in the hope that he may be persuaded to think twice next time he is about to commit so egregious and disgraceful a folly as did over the Shelepin visit that I venture to draw to his attention ad item he might have missed.

A little while ago, a very remarkable and unprecedented—indeed, it was quite unprecedented—took place in Moscow. A group of Soviet workers—not intellectuals, artists, political dissidents or Jews, wishing to emigrate, but ordinary workers, among them a miner and a waitress—met, apparently by their own request, a group of American correspondents based there. The story had to tell was remarkable enough to itself shortly make clear; but it did not concern (except by implication) violations of human rights in the field of free speech or worship, free movement or the division of families, free association, or the like. The facts are not offered to, when it could indeed be said that

He all things common did and mean, Upon that memorable scene. Anyway, even if he does not blush, it is not necessarily true that he cannot, and today would like to offer him, another chance more modestly, and the British Labour Movement, a tiny vignette of what the workers' life in the Workers' State is actually like. The facts are not offered to the Communists and fellow-travellers;

the public, particularly the Royal Hongkong Police force. The police that became the primary target of ICAC. Its establishment represented a triumph over the comfortable European assumption that while small-scale corruption might exist among the rank and file and even among the senior non-commissioned officers (that is, among Chinese) that corruption among the expatriate gazetted officers was the exception rather than the rule.

It is now overwhelmingly accepted in Hongkong that the great majority of policemen are corrupt, whatever their race.

Over the last year ICAC's investigations have begun to take place. Large corruption syndicates, collecting protection money from those running gambling dens, brothels and the like, were taking industrial action (militant to military) to demand pay guidelines. Then they tried to present those complaints in the

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AFTER ISMAILIA

After their whirlwind courtship President Sadat and Mr Begin are having trouble getting down to a working relationship. Both seem disappointed with their Christmas meeting. The magic is going out of their affair and they are now having to confront fundamental differences. But this is neither surprising nor reason for despair. Nobody expected a fully polished agreement to emerge from the meeting. The best that could be hoped for was evidence of willingness to go on talking seriously about a peace settlement, and that is what emerged. Political and military commissions will now get to work and report to the Cairo meeting in January. Meanwhile bureaucracies on both sides are buzzing with activity as the search goes on for bridges between the two positions. Only a formidable psychological breakthrough could have generated so much activity in so short a time, and there is still no reason why it need fizzle out.

Yet the gulf between the two positions is indeed wide, especially over the future of the West Bank. Mr Begin has offered self-rule for twenty years, after which a tripartite committee representing Jordan, Israel and the people of the West Bank would decide the future subject, however, to a veto by any one of the three parties. Meanwhile Israel would remain the right of settlement as well as responsibility for security and foreign affairs. This is a long way from the full statehood demanded by President Sadat. If he is to have any hope of getting wider Arab

support for a settlement he will need a good deal more. To leave the final question pending for twenty years with an Israeli veto looming at the end is not really a settlement at all.

Mr Begin must know this but how far can he move? He has already moved some way from the positions he stated when he was elected. To go all the way to meet President Sadat would mean almost totally contradicting himself. He could probably afford to do so if he could offer the Israeli people a sufficiently convincing peace settlement in exchange. This has been made more difficult by the divisions among the Arabs. Had they united they could not only have exerted enormous pressure on Israel but they could also have offered reasonable assurances that a settlement would be honoured. As it is, although no full settlement would come into effect without wider participation, the uncertainty sown by the Arab rejectionists makes it that much more difficult for the Israelis to reconsider their position.

All the justified Israeli fears which President Sadat has tried so hard to remove have been propped up again. A more self-defeating position than that of the rejectionists would be hard to imagine.

This appears to leave President Sadat with the temptation to go for a quick settlement of those issues which he can settle with Israel, notably the status of Sinai, but this is not practical politics. Among other things he is very dependent on the Gulf states, and although they very much want peace—especially a peace which keeps the Russians out—they do not want deeper splits in the

Arab world. Any agreement between President Sadat and Mr Begin must therefore be one which it is reasonable to expect other states to accept in due course when tappers have cooled down. But this does not mean that President Sadat should now follow Mr Heikal's advice and turn his attention to negotiating a united Arab position. In the present situation it could hardly be anything but a waste of time. All interested parties were invited to Cairo and presumably the door remains open to any who wish to change their minds about attending. Those who stay away have excluded themselves for the moment and cannot expect President Sadat to divert himself from the main task of working on Israel to take on the far more daunting task of getting agreement among Arabs who show no interest.

The key decisions must still be made by and with Israel. The problem is how to give the Palestinians a homeland that would not pose a threat to Israeli security. Mr Begin seems to think that this can be achieved only if Israel retains responsibility for security in the West Bank. This is not necessarily the case. An Israeli presence might exacerbate tension and provoke insecurity, whereas the Palestinians living on the spot, who have as great an interest in peace as the Israelis, might be able to police themselves more effectively. Obviously Israel will need more than promises if she is to feel secure. At this stage it does not seem impossible to work out something which goes further to meet President Sadat's position yet does not expose Israel to real insecurity.

It was also surprised by their statement in the Journal: "We have translated the Babylonian cuneiform almanac for the year 305 of the Seleucid era." I am sure that no other astronomers have subjected themselves to the rigorous discipline of learning cuneiform. Others like myself who have interested themselves in such matters have had to use Schabel's translation in *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* (1925), which—like the Chinese researches—is not mentioned in the article in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society.

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There are a good many other practices, such as the closed shop, which would need to be looked at; but it should not only be the industrial unions that should be brought under scrutiny. In recent years such professional groups as doctors and teachers have adopted tactics which previous generations would have thought incompatible with their duty to society. Is there need for a new distinction, to be enshrined in this instance, not in law but in public expectation, between those who do and those who do not have a moral right to strike? It is also necessary to determine how far certain occupations may legitimately go? Employers' practices too should not pass unnoticed. But if an examination of this sort is to have value it must not seek to balance criticism of unions with complaints against employers just to show that the Church is not prejudiced. The only justification for one more committee would be if it were fearlessly to focus attention on practices which in their effects often do not appear to be consistent with a moral society.

As the article points out, often the "victims of Britain's new tribalism are not those who are most involved but those who are most vulnerable". The theory of the strike is that it is a weapon to be used by workers against their employer in furtherance of an industrial dispute with him. By withdrawing their labour they make it impossible for him to continue his activity in full if at all and thereby engage him in a direct trial of economic strength. But in practice the strike weapon seems to be used increasingly as a means of hurting the general public and thereby inducing them to bring pressure to bear on the employer. Sometimes the employer and the general public are hurt as a means of exerting pressure on the government. One of the principal purposes of any examination by the Church or Churches should be to consider whether these, or indeed

any other, indirect uses of industrial power can be morally justifiable.

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SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke and Duchess of Kent will visit New Zealand in May. A memorial service for Major-General Sir James Bowes-Lyon, who died in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at noon on Wednesday, January 11.

Birthdays today

Sir Henry Bland, 63; Sir Andrew Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, 67; Sir Bayard Dill, 72; Mr T. W. Gould, VC, 63; Mr Roy Hattersley, MP, 45; Lieutenant-General Sir George Lea, 65; Sir Walter Puckey, 78; Lord Salmon, 74.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. E. A. Troup and Miss S. J. Martin. The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony and Lady Troup, of Hungerford, Berkshire, and Sirol, eldest daughter of Colonel and Mrs John Martin of Wiltshire.

Mr D. G. Craft and Miss E. M. C. Beardsworth. The engagement is announced between David George, son of Mr and Mrs A. Craft of Ruislip, Middlesex, and Elizabeth, daughter of Colman elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Beardsworth, of Ruislip Middlesex.

Lieutenant S. Cussen, RN and Miss M. Searle. The engagement is announced between Stephen Cussen, RN, son of Mr and Mrs B. A. Cussen, of 90 Ruffield Road, Eltham, London, and Maura, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Searle, Library Cottage, Ghyllsden.

Mr P. J. Jones and Miss E. Craxton. The engagement is announced between Philip son of Mrs C. M. Taylor of Wimborne and Eleanor, daughter of Mrs A. S. Craxton, 21 Vernon Road, SW14, and Mr Anthony Craxton, CVO, MVO.

Mr P. D. Jones and Miss A. M. B. Russell. The engagement is announced between Philip David, son of Mr and Mrs E. M. Jones of Balaclava, Gwent, and Andrea Mary Bowes, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Russell, of Christchurch, Dorset.

Mr M. C. B. Moquette and Miss A. J. Hadspeth. The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Henry E. Moquette, of Little Orchard, Undercliffe Drive, St Lawrence, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, formerly of London, to Alabina, second daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Hadspeth, of Gloucester, Cheltenham, Gloucester, temporarily of 22 Abbey Lodge, Park Road, London, NW8.

Mr P. R. Sebag-Montefiore and Miss A. D. Fawcett. The engagement is announced between Patrick Sebag-Montefiore, of 59 Townshend Court, St John's Wood, NW8, son of the late Mr and Mrs John Sebag-Montefiore, and Coral Pomeroy, of 10c Grosvenor Gardens, Hyde Park, W8, only daughter of Mrs Thomas Hoffmire, and stepdaughter of Thomas Hoffmire, of St John's Wood, NW8.

Mr M. Vernell and Miss A. Bunge. The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs L. J. Vernell, of Poulton, Gloucestershire, and Antoinette, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Bunge, of Cranbrook, Kent.

Marriage

Colonel A. C. Noel and Miss A. Dutches.

The marriage took place quietly on December 22, at The Little Oratory, London, between Colonel Archibald Noel and Miss André Dutches. Father Henry Coombes-Tennant officiated.

£50,000 winner

The weekly £50,000 Premium Savings Bond prize, announced on Saturday, was won by 33-year-old Mrs. J. M. V. Lewis of 230 Gloucester Road, London, SW3. The winner lives in Kent.

The £5,000 winners are:

2 DL 669212 5 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 1 VZ 104785
10 LI 778458 1 W 697260
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £1,000 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £500 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £100 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £50 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £20 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £10 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £5 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £2 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £1 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.50 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.25 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.10 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.05 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.025 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.015 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.01 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.005 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.0025 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.0015 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104785

The £0.0005 winners are:

2 DL 669212 2 SK 104785
4 DL 917535 4 SK 104785
10 LI 778458 10 SK 104785
12 PB 141664 12 SK 104785
13 PB 141664 13 SK 104785
15 PS 210457 15 SK 104785
16 PS 210457 16 SK 104785
18 ON 212757 18 SK 104785
20 ON 212757 20 SK 104785
21 SP 106214 21 SK 104

SPORT

Football

Leeds cause Everton to lose much more than just another game

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Leeds 2-1

Their record of 22 unbeaten matches having been beaten in the 2-1 defeat by Manchester United on Boxing Day, Everton compounded a rare error by losing again at Elland Road yesterday. The rhythm of their defeat had lost some of the goodwill that had been built over the first half of the season.

They lost their composure and their style, the two being directly related. Leeds, full of power in defence and always brighter in attack, were able to master them before half-time and in the end were coasting to a convincing victory. The last time Everton got the point will be a record for the club in the first half of the season.

It was a hard, stern match over which neither the referee nor the more delicate ball players had enough influence.

The dominating forces were

McQueen and Madeley rapidly sup-

porting the Leeds' defence.

McQueen hovered over Larchford and left him in the shadows, while Madeley gave McKenzie few opportunities to repay the players who gave him a platform at the beginning. Everton's own last appeared on October 8 and now soon realized that he had not hit a ball on a day that did not suit him.

Their own defeat, by Wolverhampton Wanderers, the previous day, was not to be compared with Everton's painful experience and from the start they were incomparably more confident. Yet that everything immediately fell into place. To all intents and purposes they lost the complete service of Jordan for some time early in the game after he received a knock for an injury received in the first of many heavy collisions.

In the second, a three-way clash with the Everton goalkeeper, Wood, and central defender, Higgins, Jordan body-shoved and for the next 15 minutes struggled his way back into the game. By half-time he had fully recovered and Leeds had the game in their keeping.

Two goals were perhaps less than they deserved as Harris and Graham swept in from the wings, often to be brought crashing to the ground by defenders who saw

the danger but not the answer. On that he had little escape, only momentarily, to long enough to justify Everton's fears. If not these tactics, he received from Cherry and held the ball for long enough to assess the possibilities. A run along the line was blocked but he turned the ball into the corner of the box, and, without bothering to turn to face the goal, struck a solid shot inside the far post.

Most of the style and all of the appeal that had popularized Everton this season now left them in the last 15 minutes, and into history. Pele was twice warned for thundering into Harris, but Leeds' protected themselves with goals. Almost at the end of the first half Everton saw the first of their strikes when Higgins was denied a clearance for cherry-topped over Jordan. From 25 yards Lorimer was comfortably within his famous range for a cracking free kick that sliced on some sort of a dip like a spinner of dust and lodged in the corner of the goal.

By giving away another free kick, Everton conceded that they had not only increased Everton's frustration so much that their self-control broke.

Jordan was allowed

into their penalty area and when they did McQueen and Madeley easily dealt with Larchford who was a novice. What

Pearson's direction of the attack was shallow and the efforts of Thomas, who provided them with copious canaries, came to nothing. Indeed, their last 15 minutes had been an unmitigated disaster of the overall pattern. It was scored by Dobson with a fierce low shot after a corner was allowed to bounce about in the Leeds penalty area and, although probably the crucial moment of the game, when McQueen was chasing opponents rather than the ball.

Certainly McQueen had been antagonized but the referee had been far from failing the Everton players. Ross, Pele, and Lyons in quick succession, and his team had rendered their own justice.

Goals: P. Pele, 1; S. Higgins, 1; Cherry, P. Madeley, 2; Larchford, 1; J. Higgins, 1; D. Dobson, 1; G. Wood, 1; J. Jones, 1; M. Harris, 1; R. Larchford, 1; A. Higgins, 1; M. Dobson, 1; R. Larchford, 1. Referee: K. H. Burns (Stockbridge).

Menacing Arsenal expose West Brom's fragility

By Arthur Osman
West Bromwich Albion 1 Arsenal 3

To be beaten twice by the same score in the space of 24 hours suggests that the temporary management on and off the field at West Brom have not put out to restore a sense of confidence that drained from Albion in this game like post-Christmas goodwill.

The other side of the coin saw Arsenal happily complete a six-game holiday fixture with a slender victory in succession. No one could question their right to it.

Arsenal played with economy, purpose and style to knock the stuffing out of Albion with two goals in the first 12 minutes that were more than equal to anything Albion could muster for the rest of the half.

Albion could do little to match Arsenal's defensive depth and as the first half wore on the signs of desperation came into their play. Some of it was crude and although they were allowed to get back into the match in the second half as Arsenal coasted, Albion's unwillingness to say the least, overcame them.

It was no surprise when Robertson saw the yellow card for a desperate lunge at Price who for a minute or two was freed from the boots of Sturman, surprisingly for the Albion back is far too good to indulge in such exhibitions of frustration.

However, natural justice was seen to be done after 75 minutes with a penalty awarded to Arsenal that had its doubtful points, but seemed to be a cumulative sentence for so much that had gone before from Albion. The referee, Mr. A. R. Glass, who was sharp of eye on the halfway line at the time that Walshe fouled MacDonald marginally outside the area. But after hearing arguments for and against, Mr. L. D. Moore and Brady put away the third goal.

The opening phase had crackled with fast and furious moves that

in the first four minutes alone had Godden running 15 yards from his area to clear the ball from Macdonald's feet and then being beaten by the same player who, this time, had the ball in his boot and Rix in particular outwitted the defence at will, and it was Rix who went on to have a splendid, combative game. He made the first in a series of mauls. The Albion defence was not so sure. The single, stood watchful as the wing, and Dalgliesh, who was watching, was to be the first to score a simple and devastatingly effective.

Within two minutes Rix was at hand again to thunder the ball goalwards only to see it cannon wide high into the air and Macdonald, who had been waiting for it to drop, headed it neatly and powerfully over Godden.

It seemed harder to believe that the light of such fragility that was to come was to be seen again. Albion at home for over three months, and more seemed in the offing as Arsenal moved as menacingly as the day was dark, with Rix and Godden.

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Racing

Beacon Light's win casts shadow on Champion Hurdle

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

The racing at Kempton Park on Boxing Day certainly woke up the ante-post market as far as the Champion Hurdle and the Gold Cup are concerned. Following Beacon Light's victory in the William Hill Christmas Hurdle and Night Nurse's fall in the same race, Birds Nest is now favourite to win the Champion Hurdle. Hills's effort of 3 to 1 being marginally more generous than that of Ladbrooke 1 who have cut his price to 5 to 2. Night Nurse, who had not fallen before, has now eased to 4 to 1. Beacon Light has dropped to 10 to one.

With Birds Nest and Beacon Light to represent him, Bob Turner has an undeniably strong hand. But he said: "I can't help but feel that they may both run better at Cheltenham than they did earlier this year". On that occasion they finished fifth and sixth respectively.

O'Halloran did not ask Bachelor's Hall to tackle Uncle Bing until they had jumped the last fence. As soon as he did, it was clear that he would not be denied and Four Foxes ranged on dourly to finish third and fourth respectively.

Nimrod, who was trained in France until not very long ago, ran exceptionally well, though he had not been in England since he was a foal.

He did not have the

steepchase at Newbury on Saturday, either. But Walwyn still has plenty of time in which to get Fort Devon right for the Gold Cup in March, and at present all the evidence points to the big chestnut having a favourite's chance of winning.

On Boxing Day Bachelor's Hall won the King George VI Steeplechase by outpacing Uncle Bing on the run in. He won by a length, having been ridden with the utmost patience, not to mention confidence, by O'Halloran. While John Francome was blazing the trail on Uncle Bing, O'Halloran was making his way to the rest of the field, conserving Bachelor's Hall's energy. Turning for home, Uncle Bing still looked like winning, but when he jumped to his left over each of the last three fences, it became clear that he was not to be denied and Four Foxes ranged on dourly to finish third and fourth respectively.

Nimrod and Royal Marshal had

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to The Classified Queries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 or 1234 Ext 7180. We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

"Let us now go even unto death for Christ's sake, which is come to pass, which the world did not know unto us, Luke 3:16.

BIRTHS

ANDERSON—On Christmas Eve, at Carlton Lodge, Marquette, to Ian and Sarah (née Hind-Woodward).

MANOWITZ—On Christmas morning, at 12.15, at her home, 100, Gledhill, to Gid and Joanne, daughter whom we have named Alexandra.

MAHON—On December 25, at Shireburn, Dorset, to Helen and Peter, and their daughter, Sophie.

ROGERS—On 25 December.

The Princess Margaret Hospital, Sidcup, Kent, and died on 26 December.

SHRIMPON—On November 1, at 10,000ft, in the Andes, Peru, Alan, Alison, and Roger, a son of Alan and Alison.

SOUTHERN—On Christmas Day, at 10.30, at Alverda, Guildford, to Michael and Pauline, and their son, Thomas Anthony, a brother for Jamie.

DEATHS

ASHDOWN—On December 26, at Caversham Hospital, after a short illness, Ruth Edward Ashdown, 70, much loved by wife and all her family, and her service sister.

BOLTON, DR JOHN RICHARD, M.B.E., F.R.C.P.—On December 25, tactfully at age of 22, Egerton Hospital, and died on 26 December, husband of Elizabeth and father of Richard, John, and Mark. No funeral service to be arranged. In memory of Friends of St. George Hospital, to be arranged with Hospital. All donations to Lloyds Bank Ltd., Paddington.

BUCHANAN—On December 26, at 80, at Caversham Hospital, after a short illness, Helen Edward Buchanan, 70, much loved by wife and all her family, and her service sister.

DEAN, MRS. MARY, 82, of 12, St. John's Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8, died on December 26, at Caversham Hospital, after a short illness, aged 82.

FRASER—On December 26, at 80, at Caversham Hospital, after a short illness, John Fraser, 80, of 12, St. John's Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8, died on December 26, at Caversham Hospital, after a short illness, aged 80.

GOODFELLOW, MRS. MARY, 82, of 12, St. John's Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8, died on December 26, at Caversham Hospital, after a short illness, aged 82.

HOBSON—On December 26, at 80, at Caversham Hospital, after a short illness, Mrs. Hobson, 80, of 12, St. John's Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8, died on December 26, at Caversham Hospital, after a short illness, aged 80.

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